

No. 26

World RAINFOREST REPORT

OCTOBER 1993

**PNG: Why Log Exports have Tripled
Oil and the Amazon**

\$3.50

FEED the MAN FORESTS

John Robbins on Meat Eating
and the Environment page 3



Editorial

Don't just read this magazine; you might get depressed.

PNG logging triples; oil companies stuff up Ecuador and Peru; Yanomami massacred; roads through the largest remaining wilderness in the US; mangroves destroyed for Tiger Prawns in Thailand; logging resumes in Brazilian Indian Reserves; the same old horrifying stories from Sarawak...

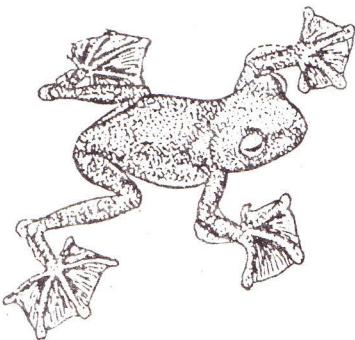
If you're familiar with WRR, the tone is predictable. So why read it?

Shall I offer you some platitudes? There's always hope, everyone can do their little bit, it's not too late, people are getting the message, the tide is turning...

But I don't know if there is any hope. Maybe it is too late. And there's not much bloody evidence that people are getting the message. I don't even wonder about these questions much. They seem like a distraction.

I hope you do read John Robbins' article. I hope you take the simple, positive steps he is advocating, and I hope you will write the letters that many of the articles ask for. Because simply to read these stories, without responding, would seem pointless, even masochistic. Even if in the long run, one's response may make no difference at all.

Why bother? To offer you reasons would seem like preaching. So all I can do is say, this is how it is for me: I want the truth to be told. I'm not saying the destruction is inevitable, but even if it is, I want the truth to be told. And I want to minimise my own part in the atrocities that are being committed against the Earth. I do what I do because anything else would be living a lie. I do what I do because to do nothing would be too painful. I do it because of my little boy, for the joy I see in him and in all new life.



Thanks to Dailan Pugh for the line drawings of rainforest that grace the pages of this and most previous World Rainforest Reports.

NB: Australian readers interested in the environmental impact of the meat industry can contact Mara J., Nimbin Environment Centre, 54 Cullen St., Nimbin, NSW 2480.

The World Rainforest Report is published quarterly by the Rainforest Information Centre, PO Box 368, Lismore, NSW 2480, Australia.

Editor: John Revington

Minding Tane: Brenda Crosby

Cover Design & Drawing: Brian Slapp

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Meat Eating and the Environment

by John Robbins

In so many ways today we are learning that the choices we make every day have consequences for the future of life on Earth, that every action we take sends out ripples of impact, and that it is only by understanding and taking responsibility for the results of our life choices that we have a chance to heal our lives and our world. Increasing numbers of people are calling for a restructuring of our lifestyles, institutions and social policies, and for ecologically sound consumer choices. Of all areas of life where people are making changes, perhaps none is so personal as food choices. With each passing day, more people are coming to the conclusion that a reduction in meat consumption may be the most potent single act they can take to halt the destruction of our environment. Why?

Global Warming

The five hottest years in recorded history took place in the 1980's. But it wasn't until the disastrous heat wave and drought that occurred in the summer of 1988 that the public at large became aware of the Greenhouse Effect.

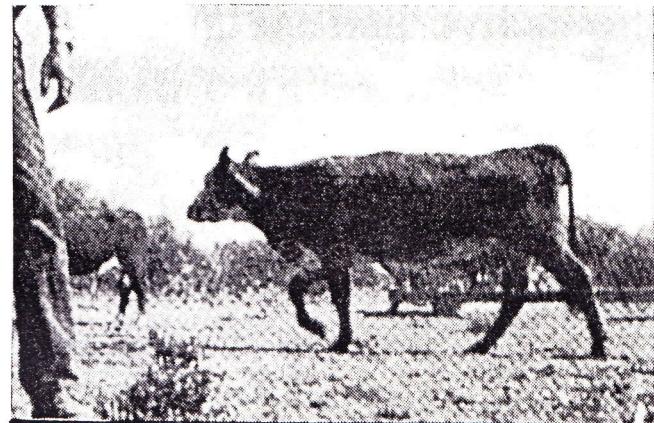
Estimates as to how fast and how much the planet will overheat remain speculative, but the informed scientific community is virtually unanimous in sounding a compelling alarm. Due to the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, we are looking at an increase in planetary temperature in the next 100 years equal to that which has occurred since the end of the last ice age, over 12,000 years ago. The gases involved are primarily CO₂, methane, chlorofluorocarbons, and oxides of nitrogen. We know that there has been a 25% increase in atmospheric CO₂ levels in the last 100 years, and that these levels are climbing rapidly.

CO₂ levels in the atmosphere rise whenever we burn forest or fossil fuels. This is because fossil fuels and biomass are nature's storage banks of carbon, and when they are burned, the carbon is released.

"The amount of oil consumed in the production of meat is so great that it should virtually be considered a petroleum by-product"

It is hard for many of us to grasp how much more fossil fuels and forest must be burned to produce a meat-centered diet than a plant-centered diet.

According to an article published in *Science* by Cornell's David Pimental, forty times more fossil fuels have to be burned to produce a pound of protein from feedlot beef than to produce a pound of protein from soybeans. Worldwatch has stated that the



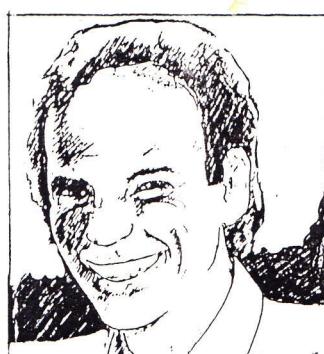
amount of oil consumed in the production of meat is so great that the substance should virtually be considered a petroleum by-product. The Greenhouse Crisis Foundation in Washington reports that every fast food hamburger using rainforest beef represents 500 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of forests.

Methane: The amount of methane in the earth's atmosphere has more than doubled in the last 300 years. Alarmingly, the rate of increase is itself increasing. Even in its present concentration methane is already responsible for close to a quarter of the global warming that results from human activity. One of the primary sources of the methane gas rising off the earth into the atmosphere today are cattle feedlots. Ralph Cicerone, the head of geosciences at the University of California at Irvine, estimates that livestock produce about 15 per cent of all atmospheric methane.

Cattle are responsible for so much methane because the micro-organisms in their guts which digest cellulose are virtual methane production factories. In fact, an average cow will belch 400 litres a day of the gas.

The cattle industry is responding by experimenting with drugs to alter the microbial population in the cattle's guts to decrease the volume of methane eructation. However, experiments at Colorado State University show that after 16 days, the bacteria in the animals' guts adapt to the drugs and methane production returns to normal.

Florentin Krause, chairman of the International Project for Sustainable Energy Paths, and West German climatologist Wilfrid Bach, calculated the effects of a beef-based diet on global warming. The Dutch-sponsored study was released at a 70-nation environmental conference in the Netherlands in late 1990, and presented



John Robbins authored the best-seller *Diet for a New America* (avail. from EarthSave, PO Box 949, Felton, California, USA). He was heir to the Baskin-Robbins Icecream Co. but decided against involvement in the firm because of its use of animal products.

ference in the Netherlands in late 1990, and presented and to the US Congress. The researchers state that livestock production is the greatest "man-made" source of the gas. Additionally, according to Krause, livestock production "hoards land that could otherwise contain forest capable of soaking up carbon dioxide." As a result of his research, Krause recommends putting a "climate tax" on beef to encourage people to avoid it.

Oxides of Nitrogen: As well as being greenhouse gases, the various oxides of nitrogen are much to blame for the acid rain which is destroying so many lakes and forests worldwide. They are spewed into the atmosphere from a number of industrial sources including the breakdown of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer. The largest use of synthetic nitrogen in the country is on land growing cattle feed.

A reduction in meat consumption would thus set off a very positive chain reaction. It would mean a reduction in the amount of land needed for cattle feed, and so a reduced use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer, and so significantly fewer oxides of nitrogen polluting the atmosphere. This would be of tremendous benefit, for it would not only help to slow down the serious threat to the stability of our planet's climate. It would also lower the levels of chemical fertilizer and pesticides in the environment and in the food chains, and it would mean less acid rain. It would also mean cleaner air, and healthier forest, rivers, and lakes.

Rainforest Destruction

Public awareness of the connection between meat consumption and tropical rainforest destruction was catalyzed with the Rainforest Action Network's boycott of Burger King. Purchasing advertisements in major news magazines to inform the public of the hidden price we pay for such meat, RAN called the company "a driving force behind this environmental disaster".

It is staggering how fast the timeless rainforests of Latin America are being destroyed to produce beef. In 1960, when the U.S. first began to import beef, Central America was blessed with 130,000 square miles of virgin rainforest. But only 25 years later, less than 80,000 square miles remained. At this rate, the entire tropical rainforests of Central America would be gone in another 35 years. Tropical rainforests are being rapidly destroyed to provide land on which cattle can be grazed. In a book published in conjunction with the Natural Resources Defense Council, rainforest expert Scott Lewis explains, "A typical four-ounce hamburger made from rainforest beef involved the destruction of about 55 square feet of tropical forest, an area the size of a small kitchen. Each hamburger represents the destruction of ... one large tree, 50 saplings and seedlings representing 20-30 different species, thousands of insects of several hundred species, and an almost unimaginable variety of mosses, fungi and microorganisms."

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) threatens to accelerate rainforest destruction. The fast food burger chain has been pushing to ensure that NAFTA will abolish or weaken the limits on beef imports set by the *Meat Import Act* of 1979. The cheapest place to produce beef in North America is on cleared rainforest land in southern Mexico. NAFTA would

provide economic incentive to destroy what is left of this region's rainforest.

While it is difficult for consumers to know exactly which products are made from rainforest beef, the net impact of beef production on the tropical rainforests is flagrant and undeniable. In *The Rainforest Book* Scott Lewis concludes: "Cattle ranching has destroyed more rainforest in Central America than any other activity." A shift to a more plant-based diet would send a message to the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank to stop giving loans and grants for meat production and rainforest destruction. It would be a major step towards saving the remaining tropical rainforest, and towards preserving the habitats of the world's few remaining indigenous cultures. It would save countless species of plants and animals who live in the rainforest, and who will become extinct if destruction of the world's rainforests continues.

Water

Life on Earth began in water, and has always depended for its very existence on water. Without water we die. Sadly we are fast approaching a time when we may be forced to learn the inestimable value of this natural treasure the hard way. Our supply of good water is disappearing at a terrifying rate. The source of this ominous trend can be traced directly to our meat habit. Over half the total amount of water consumed in the United States goes to irrigate land growing feed and fodder for livestock.

Severe droughts in the state of California have forced a close look at the use of water, a look which is instructive for the rest of the nation. Writing in the *New York Times*, a former staff member of the Natural Resources Defense Council named Marc Reisner says, "In California, the single biggest consumer of water is not Los Angeles. It is not the oil and chemical or defense industries...It is irrigated pasture; grass grown in a near-desert climate for cows. In 1986 irrigated pasture used about 5.3. million

Water for Food

Soil and Water, a publication of the University of California agricultural extension, reports the finding of a remarkable study determining the number of gallons of water it takes to produce a pound of various foods:

Onions	16
Celery	22
Lettuce	23
Tomatoes	23
Potatoes	24
Carrots	33
Cucumber	39
Cabbage	39
Apple	49
Beef	5,214

It is difficult to get a clear picture of how great an amount of water is 5214 gallons, it might help to consider that the average pound of California beef represents enough water to fill a stack of one-gallon containers over a mile high. The problem is not that beef cattle are terribly thirsty creatures. Irrigating pastures and croplands for livestock feed is where most of the water goes.



Livestock produce an estimated 15% of all methane released into the atmosphere.

acre-feet of water, as much as all 27 million people in the state consumed, including for swimming pools and lawns. The West's water crisis and many of the environmental problems as well says Reisner can be summed up, implausible as it may seem, in a single word: livestock."

"You save more water in California by not eating a pound of beef than you would by not showering for an entire year"

In countless books and manuals people are being told what to do to conserve water; they are being told to flush only when necessary, to take shorter and less frequent showers, not to wash their cars, to let their lawns die, to turn off the water when brushing their teeth except to rinse the brush, and so forth. But where does the concerned citizen of the planet actually have the greatest leverage and effectiveness? You would use about 100 gallons of water per week for all your showers - 5200 gallons a year. Because it takes 5214 gallons of water to produce the average pound of beef in California today, this means that you save more water in the state of California today by not eating a single pound of beef than you would by not showering for an entire year.

Because California and the other western states are comparatively dry areas, it takes more water to produce beef there than in many other parts of the country. But the USDA tells us that the average for the country as a

whole is 2500 gallons of water per pound of beef. According to these figures, on a national average, you save as much water by not eating a single pound of beef as you would by not showering for six months.

Poultry and Fish

Do other meats such as pork, poultry products and fish take the same toll on the environment as beef? According to *Soil and Water* (see box previous page), the average pound of California's eggs represents 544 gallons of water, chicken 815 gallons; and pork 1,630 gallons. While these numbers do not match beef's 5,214 gallons, they are still extremely incriminating when compared to plant foods. A pound of wheat for example, represents only 25 gallons.

In other areas, too, the stress to our planet's life support systems is less with fish and poultry products than with beef, but still of major significance. Commercial fishing boats are today using drift nets to haul fish out of the oceans by the metric ton, in the process turning delicate ecosystems into watery deserts. Incidentally, much of the fish catch is not fed directly to people, but instead fed as fish meal to livestock.

More fish are consumed by U.S. livestock than are consumed by the entire human populations of all the countries of Western Europe combined.

"Would you want to cut a chicken up, then drop him into a fresh manured pile and eat him? That's what the product is like coming from chicken plants today"

What about poultry products? Due to more efficient feed conversion ratios, the production of turkey, chicken and eggs causes significantly less emission of greenhouse gases than beef production, and also less soil erosion and deforestation. But a dispassionate appraisal of the data reveals that poultry products are still severe ecological liabilities when compared to plant foods. Whilst the conventional consensus has it that poultry products are a healthier alternative to red meat, it turns out that poultry products are almost a match for beef in terms of fat, and (particularly in the case of eggs) even worse when it comes to cholesterol. Poultry products have also been accused of carrying salmonella, campylobacter, and numerous other dangerous forms of bacteria. The comments of Pat Godfrey, an inspector at the Tyson plant in Springdale, Arkansas, were typical: "Would you want to go out to a pasture with a chicken, cut him up, then drop him into a fresh manured pile and eat him? That's what the product is like coming from chicken plants today" Of

the 84 inspectors interviewed, 60 said that based on what they had observed, they no longer eat chicken.

So What?

It is staggering to realize how much is to be gained both for human health and for the health of the biosphere by a shift to a more plant-based diet. Three hundred years ago, North America was largely covered with luxuriant forests and tall prairie grasses. The air was clear, the waters ran pure, and wildlife abounded. Since European settlers "civilized" the continent, we have cut down over half of the trees in North America, and exchanged most of them for vast fields of feedcorn, soybeans, oats, sorghum, pasture grass, hay and other forms of animal fodder. Eighty percent of the corn, oats and soybeans grown in the United States are not eaten by people; they are fed to livestock. We have, in effect, traded our forests for cheeseburgers.

"80% of the corn, oats and soybeans grown in the US are eaten not by people but by livestock"

Approximately 200 million acres of land in the United States could be returned to forest with an 80 percent reduction in meat consumption. Such an immense gain in forests would have extraordinary benefits to the whole Earth community. We would see the erosion of our topsoil halted, and our hydrological cycles renewed so that we would have more water and cleaner water. Countless species of wildlife would have their habitats restored, which would mean a marked reduction in the wave of extinction that is currently sweeping across the planet.

Because it takes sixteen pounds of grain to produce a single pound of beef, but only one pound of grain to produce a pound of bread, a significant reduction in beef production could mean a great deal to the world's hungry. Even a ten percent reduction in beef consumption in the United States would free up enough land, water and energy to feed 60 million people - more than the number of people who will die of hunger and hunger-related disease on the planet this year.

"Even a 10% reduction in US beef consumption would free enough land, water and energy to feed 60 million people"

The last few decades have seen the abysmal development of "factory farming" in which animals are crowded together in confinement, fed grotesque diets (including cement dust to "help" them gain weight) and kept under conditions which violate their every instinct and frustrate their every natural urge. The pictures of baby calves chained at their neck for their whole lives in crates so small they cannot take a single step in order to produce veal are unfortunately not exaggerated. Under modern commercial conditions, the treatment of turkeys, pigs, broiler chickens, layer hens, and sometimes even dairy cows is profoundly cruel.

In every historical time there have been people who chose to abstain from meat on ethical grounds. Such people as Mahatma Gandhi, Leonardo da Vinci, Plato and Albert Einstein said that because meat production entailed the killing of the creature, they would not support or condone it. But today there are many more reasons for adding our voices to theirs. Today the amount of suffering involved is so much greater because the animals are not only killed but subjected to torturous conditions throughout their lives. Today we know of the dangers to human health of a meat-based diet. Today we know of the disastrous impact of modern meat production on the deterioration of our environment.

When many of us sit down to eat, we aren't aware of how our food choices affect the world. We don't realize that in production and packaging of every Big Mac, enough energy is consumed to produce food for a hundred Third World people, and with every billion burgers sold, another hundred species become extinct. We may have come to know that in the sizzle of our steaks there lies dangerously high levels of cholesterol and saturated fat, and markedly increased incidence of heart disease, strokes and cancers. But up until recently, very few of us were aware that meat represents the mining of our topsoil, the abuse of our croplands, the destruction of our rangelands, the wasting of our water, and the destabilization of our climate.

It is fortunate for the Earth and for our endangered life support systems that more people are learning to see the extraordinary range of problems that can be slowed and even reversed by a decline in the production and consumption of meat. For those who respond to these realities, the result is not only greater personal health, but also the knowledge that they are doing something significant to contribute to the healing of our world.

EarthSave

PO Box 949, Felton, California, 95018-0949

EarthSave is a non-profit, charitable organisation working to educate people as to what they can do to help create an ecologically sustainable future.

Realities is a collection of facts excerpted from *Diet for a New America* by John Robbins. Multiple copies are available from EarthSave at a discount.

Some quotes:

- * Length of time world's petroleum reserves would last if all humans ate meat-centered diet: 13 years.
- * Length of time world's petroleum would last if all humans ate vegetarian diet: 260 years.
- * Amount of oil U.S. would have to import if 10% of population became fully vegetarian: none
- * Leading source of pesticide residues in the U.S. diet: Meat - 55%
- * Second leading source of pesticide residues in US diet: Dairy products - 23%

COVE/MALLARD: Roading America's Wild Heart

The largest Wilderness in mainland US is threatened by one of the largest timber sales ever offered by the Forest Service.

The net of roads that is throttling the United States is so tight that the big creatures of the wild - bears, panthers, great old trees, have been strangled out, and the smaller ones face daily decimation. But in the Northern Rocky Mountains, there are some great holes in the net.

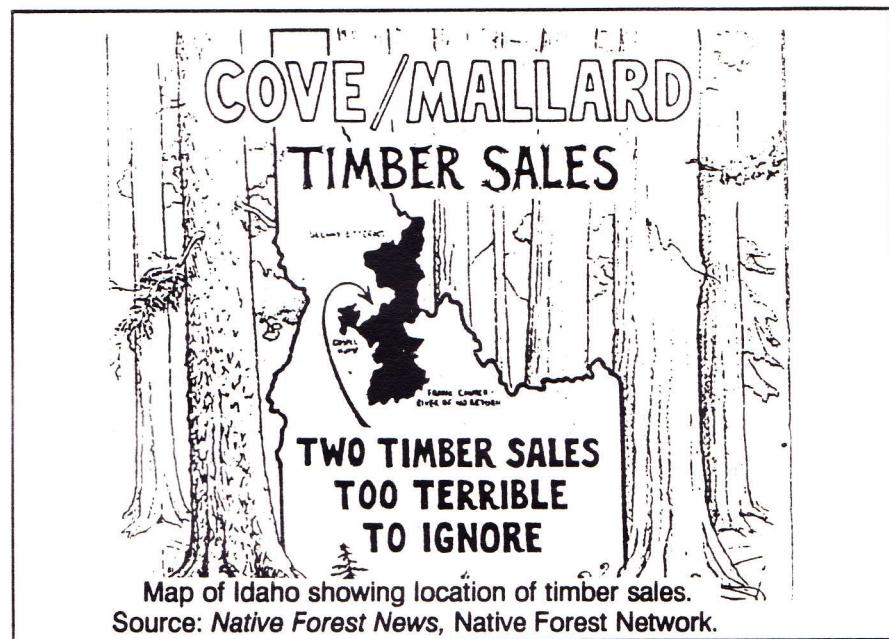
Here the terrain has been so rugged and remote that it has not been worth the great effort it would take to road it and raze it. But now that the timber companies have stripped the huge coastal forests and are still hungry for profit, and now that the federal government, run by industry lobbyists, is willing to spend millions of dollars to chauffeur them to the trees, now the last wild places are increasingly in danger.

"Now the US Govt., run by industry lobbyists, is willing to spend millions of dollars to chauffeur them to the trees, the last wild places are increasingly in danger"

The largest of these places left in the Wild Rockies, and in the continental US as a whole for that matter, is a huge area in the middle of the state of Idaho, known as the Central Idaho Wilderness Complex or the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem.

The Greater Salmon-Selway stretches across the middle of the state of Idaho, and includes parts of western Montana and Oregon. In its heart lies the largest protected wildland in the contiguous United States, the Frank Church - River of No Return Wilderness, flanked by the adjoining Gospel Hump Wilderness and the adjacent Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Together, these areas far exceed in size any other wild place we have left.

The Salmon River is, next to the Colorado, the largest unroaded length of wild water in the lower 48 states. Unlike most unroaded areas,



The Salmon-Selway is not primarily "rock-and-ice" land of the sort often left alone because of its low economic value. Most of it is subalpine and forested, and contains a rich diversity of species.

Above the deep canyons of the major rivers, most of the land is high enough to make for long, protracted winters with heavy snowpacks and fairly wet summers, hosting an exceptionally rich mid-elevation temperate forest ecosystem of Lodgepole Pine, Sub-alpine Fir and Douglas Fir on the ridgelines, Western Larch and Engelmann Spruce in the wetter draws and, as you descend down into the Salmon Breaks, huge, ancient Ponderosa Pine. These montane forest communities contain an array of habitats ranging from wet meadow complexes to grassy parklands to densely forested summits. Here, the Idaho Rockies are truly a wildlife paradise and harbor the last strongholds of Wolverine, Fisher, Pine Marten, Lynx, Mountain Lion, Black Bear, Harlequin Duck, Boreal and Flammulated Owls, Goshawk, Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, and Bull Trout.

Cove/Mallard Threats: A Network of Roads & Clearcuts

In the heart of this wild land, north-west of the River of No Return Wilderness, lie the Cove and Mallard Roadless Areas.

Here, along the corridor between the Gospel Hump and River-of-No-Return Wildernesses - about 40 miles long and 15 miles wide - the Forest Service is planning one of the largest timber sales ever offered by the agency. The plans would mean 145 miles of new road and the clearcutting of 81 million board feet of timber. In the winter of 1991, the Forest Service began its massive road-building and logging project. So far it has completed over 20 miles of new roads. Many more timber sales will be offered and bid on this summer and clearcutting will commence in both the Noble and Grouse sales.

Documented reports of Rocky Mountain Grey Wolf inside Cove/Mallard make the areas essential wolf recovery habitat. With the Selway-Bitterroot Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan underway, the Cove/Mallard campaign represents a golden opportunity to illustrate how

Continued on page 12

Illegal Logging Rife in Peninsular Malaysia

Timber importers and others have claimed that while there may be problems with logging in Sarawak and Sabah, forestry in Peninsular Malaysia is carried out in a sustainable manner. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth.

According to the influential ITTO-sponsored 1989 study into the sustainability of tropical forestry, "total timber production in Peninsular Malaysia will in a short period be insufficient to supply even the internal requirements of the country"¹. In Australia in 1991, a timber importer, Peter Bazos revealed during a court case that lead to his conviction on fraud charges that corruption was "normal businesss practice in the industry (See *WRR20 Oct. 1991*). A report in Kuala Lumpur's *Sunday Mail* of June 30, 1991 reveals that illegal logging is out of control in much of Peninsular Malaysia and in four states, logging quotas were exceeded "by an average of 300 per cent between 1986 and 1990"².

The *Sunday Mail* report listed three reasons why Peninsular Malaysia's forests were "ripe for plunder":

" * locations so far removed from 'civilisation' that it is sometimes hard to tell where the concession area ends.

" * poor enforcement of legislation covering timber activities in deep jungle, and

" * inadequate cooperation between the various State Forestry Departments and their respective Water and Wildlife Departments which play complementary roles in preserving forest reserves, wildlife and water catchments".

Of particular concern, the article said, was the "twilight zone" - the ill-defined areas between concession and forest reserves. The author, Rudi Mustapha, was told by a timber worker in the Hulu Kelantan area in the country's north that the region's *mata kayu* (forestry officials charged with monitoring forestry activity) were "on the take".

"With the *mata kayu* out of the way", the timber worker is quoted as saying, "the concessionaries cut down the timber outside their designated areas and mix them with the legally-logged timber...In this way it is very difficult to tell the logs apart".

Occasionally, reports Mustapha, one or two tractors and their drivers are arrested, "but the fines are only a fraction of the millions in ringgit that can be obtained from the sale of illegally logged timber". The *Sunday Mail* article quotes

AID DOLLARS PROMOTE MALAYSIAN RAINFOREST PRODUCTS IN AUSTRALIA



Protest at the AIDAB-sponsored Malaysian furniture exhibition.

by Lee Rhiannon

AID/WATCH, the Sydney-based NGO which monitors Australian overseas development aid expenditure, joined with furnishing manufacturers and unionists in a combined protest at a Malaysian furniture display organised and funded by AIDAB in Sydney in June. Sydney Rainforest Action Group and Greenpeace also participated.

Rodney Sheaves, General Manager of the NSW Guild of Furniture Manufacturers speaking at the protest stated "Australian furniture manufacturers are being put out of business by cheap imports from Asia. It's absolutely staggering that the Australian Government is using our aid funds to help them."

Mr Gordon Bilney, Minister for Development Cooperation and Pacific Island Affairs - who is responsible for AIDAB - said he was unaware of the exhibition and would have to seek more information. When he finally tries to justify this misuse of the aid budget it will be interesting to see if he attempts to hose down the disgraceful comments made by an unnamed spokesperson from his Department. Quoted in the *Canberra Times* of June 30, this official stated that the furniture made from rainforest timber at the exhibition was from Peninsular Malaysia where sustainable forestry practices were most advanced.

Even the World Bank described Malaysian forestry as a "sunset industry" and said logging is being conducted at more than four times the sustainable rate (see *WRR24*). This Bank report called for major and immediate reductions in the area of forest logged annually. With statements like these from the World Bank one is left wondering what AIDAB thinks it can gain by this unseemly rush to promote an industry that is destroying Malaysia's rainforests, detrimentally affecting the lives of the one million indigenous people who depend on these forests, and undermining the Australian furnishing industry, which means fewer jobs at a time when the official unemployment figures have topped 11%.

Note: According to the *Australian Financial Review* (19 July), the Minister for Trade, Senator Cook, admitted that funding of the exhibition was inappropriate and said the programme under which it was financed would be reviewed.

Lee Rhiannon is a director of AID/WATCH

the price of timber as being about \$M700 per tonne. An average-sized tree of 5 tonnes would therefore be worth \$M3,500.

While management policies may look impressive on paper, a shortage of personnel in the enforcing agencies, plus widespread corruption, means the situation on the ground is very different. An observer familiar with the situation in Peninsular Malaysia told the Rainforest Information Centre that most logging concessions are owned by the Royal Family and influential elements of the Malaysian political system, making effective monitoring of timber operations virtually impossible.

References:

1 P. F. Burgess in No Timber Without Trees, p. 119, Duncan Poore (editor), 1989, Earthscan.

2 Sunday Mail, June 30, Kuala Lumpur.



MALAYSIA STEPS UP PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN

Malaysia's Ministry of Primary Industries has recently directed the Malaysian Timber Industrial Development Council (MTIDC) to establish an office in Britain to coordinate efforts to counter the anti-tropical timber campaign, particularly from the European Community.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik said towards this end, the contribution to the funds facilitating MTIDC to undertake its role successfully must be forthcoming from all sectors of the wood-based industries. "The battle to counter the anti-tropical timber sentiment must be pursued continuously", he said in a speech at the Malaysian Panel Manufacturers' Association annual dinner in early August.

He added that non-tropical forests should also contribute towards world environmental stability. "Policies and measures proposed for the management of tropical forests should not be discriminatory and imposed only on tropical forests" said Dr Lim.

He added that this message had to be drummed in both at official and business fora so that provisions for a successor to the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) would encompass temperate and boreal forests as well.

Dr Lim said the forestry and timber sector was now a major component in the Malaysian economy, just next to petroleum and gas as the leading export earner in the primary commodity sector, accounting for RM\$10.4 billion or 29 percent of the country's total commodity export earnings in 1992.

He added that exports of plywood from the first quarter of 1993 had already reached RM450 million, an increase of 50 percent over the volume exported in the corresponding period in 1992. Malaysian manufacturers must always maintain the good name of being reliable suppliers of plywood to the world, he said adding that they should also strive harder towards improving recovery and improving the present utilisation of small diameter logs.

Source: Bernama (Malaysia's official news agency) 7th August 1993

Southeast Asia Rainforests:

A Resource Guide and Directory

Edited by Martha Belcher and Angela Genino

Published by Rainforest Action Network with the World Rainforest Movement, 1993.

The most comprehensive and up-to-date resource on grassroots groups both in Southeast Asia and around the world working to halt the rampant destruction of one of the last remaining areas of tropical rainforest.

Contains a statistical profile and written overview of the forests of each country in the region.

By reading and using this guide, you can support the people who are putting their lives on the line for the right to live sustainably and peacefully in the forest. You'll learn the latest on the Karen of Burma, the Mentawi in Indonesia, the Moi in West Papua and hundreds of nearly forgotten hill tribes eking out an existence in the dwindling forests of Indochina, as well as specific ways you can get involved to support their struggles.

Many of the organisations in this guide have made requests for support from the international rainforest

movement. We recommend you use this guide not only to learn about the work already underway, but to find a place for yourself in the movement to protect Southeast Asia's forests.

Available from the Rainforest Action Network for \$US8.50 per copy plus postage and handling. Requests from Third World NGO's will be met without charge.



Sarawak: More Logging, More Oppression

The incidents reported here highlight the continuing environmental and social atrocities committed by the logging industry in Sarawak. They show complicity of the Malaysian and Sarawak Governments, and make a mockery of claims that the only unrest among Dayaks is stirred up by foreigners.

Penans' Blockade at Ulu Baram

The Penans' blockade at Ulu Sungai Sebatu, Ulu Baram, to protest against the logging activities of Syarikat Samling Timber Sdn Bhd, contractor to Kelesa Sdn Bhd (licensee for the area) continues. The blockade presently comprises around 300 men, women and children. It began in February 1993 and has been dismantled twice by the Forest officials with the assistance of the Police and the Field Force.

The present blockade is in the form of a big hut which is used as a place of worship. A signboard fixed at the front reads: *"This house is a place of worship. A place to worship God who is the Greatest of All. Because of this, we will stay here because these are burial sites, farmlands and our place of origin. We plead with you not to disturb this place at all times because there are people here who are distressed."*

The company involved is one of the biggest timber companies in Sarawak and is presently spreading its activities to other countries such as Guyana and Papua New Guinea.

Large Scale Plantations

The growing emphasis on large-scale monoculture plantations owing to the fast depletion of the state's timber resources has created another problem for the native communities, many of whom have expressed their concerns over the fate of their lands and forests. Bakong and Tinjar basins in the northeastern part of Sarawak are presently the main target areas for plantations. Tens of thousands of hectares have been leased out to private companies for the purpose, without the knowledge and consent of the local natives whose lands are being included. Headmen and other representatives have expressed their strong objection to the implementation of the plantations in their lands and insisted that the plantations should be outside their territories. They also stressed that they will fight to protect their rights through the proper channels. The authorities have to date not responded.

It is anticipated that more problems will arise in future due to the emphasis large monoculture plantations involving conversion of large tracts of so-called idle lands.

Penans' Biosphere Reserves

At a meeting organised by the Sarawak Penan Association on March 31st 1993 at Long Win, Apoh, Baram, Penan leaders from settlements in the Apoh and Tutoh areas were still wondering where the Biosphere Reserves as announced by the State government are located. A Penan Penghulu Chief, Wan Malong, from the Apoh area



At a logging camp in Sarawak Photo: A. Merry.

stated, "As a Chief of the Penan communities in the area, I have yet to be informed of the location of the so called reserves ... We still see the logging companies operating all over the place." President of Sarawak Penan Association, Juwin Lehan suggested that "the government should ensure that logging is immediately stopped in the designated area and the Penan communities be directly informed and consulted in determining the area to be set aside for the reserves. We Penans must be involved in determining matters that affect us directly, at least through the Association."

SAM (Sahabat Alam Malaysia) made a verbal enquiry with the Forest officials and was informed that there is no legal status for such reserves under present laws.

Timber Wastage

During a recent visit to the interior of Ulu Baram, it was observed that many tons of timber logs were disposed of in a valley near a timber camp. Similar scenes are evident at various camps and log ponds along the Baram river. Many local people are complaining that when they want these timbers for their own use, they are refused. The timber was either buried in the valleys or burned. No one can understand the rationale behind such a wasteful action.

Bakun Dam

A local daily reported recently that Sarawak Minister for Finance and Public Utilities, Datuk Dr George Chan had confirmed that the government would carry out the Bakun Dam Project as planned. He reportedly said that it is the prerogative of the Federal Government to decide when it would be carried out. He was also reported to have given the assurance that the government would address environmental concerns before implementing the project.

A national daily reported that the current energy crisis in Peninsula Malaysia justifies the project which according to studies is expected to generate about 2,400 MW. At the same time, it stated that with the opening of other new power supply sources, the period (1987-1995) originally scheduled for the implementation of the project, was not economically viable. This was the conclusion of a report by the World Bank in 1987.

Disruption of Catchments

The much-publicised move to reduce rate of production of timber by the State government has at best slightly slowed the rate of logging and increased the price of timber. However, the native communities in the interior are still complaining of massive operations and continue to suffer as a result.

The Penans of Pa' Tik, a settlement situated at the uppermost part of Tutoh river, Baram, have complained to SAM that a logging company, Rimbunan Hijau Sdn Bhd has encroached into the catchment area of their pipe water supply provided by the Medical Department. According to the Penans, they have tried to stop the company from entering the area but the company manager simply told them that they are from the government and what they are doing is approved by the government. The Penans complained that their water supply is now muddy.

SAM has assisted them in making a report to the police and to the Medical Department.

Some residents of Long San have complained that their catchment area, especially the water supply to a secondary school at Long San, has been disturbed by a timber company despite the fact that the area is clearly marked for protection. Months after logging started in the area, the authorities finally investigated and urged the company to stop.

Note: Generally the major part of the areas presently under logging operations are part of catchment areas as loggers move further into the interior and into the headwaters of the major streams and rivers. Areas downriver have been generally logged out. Log Production quotas may be imposed but the areas logged are increasingly sensitive in terms of environmental impact.

Wan Jok and 41 others vs Govt. of Malaysia

The above case is a civil suit filed by the 42 Kayans of Uma Bawang, Baram, who were arrested in October 1987 for offences allegedly committed in a logging dispute and

Berawans Protest Tourist-driven Encroachment *"Land Is Our Fortress of Survival"*

A settlement along the Melinau river, a tributary of Tutoh, in the Baram District has been home to the Berawans for generations. As with all indigenous peoples, their land is their life, but their once peaceful existence is under threat: the declaration of the Mulu area as a national park in 1975 is affecting the Berawan Native Customary Right (NCR) landowners.

More NCR lands were affected by the construction of the Mulu airport in 1990, followed by a five-star hotel a year later, to cater to the constant flow of tourists coming to Mulu. Their lands continued to be encroached by the construction of a road from the airport to the hotel, and a feeder road to the base camp. Following repeated encroachment into their NCR land, the Berawans launched a peaceful protest and demanded compensation. Construction work was halted in August 1992, but the victory was short lived. The authorities sent in police and field force paramilitary personnel to quell the peaceful protest. A local leader was called to the police station in Miri on several occasions and interrogated. The police also threatened to arrest him.

On 28th April 1993, the Berawans highlighted their plight in public. They distributed pamphlets echoing their concern, "The Berawan Speaks: Land is our Fortress of Survival" to all foreign tourists coming in to Mulu. The campaign received wide support and sympathy from the tourists.

Two months later, a letter from the Office of the Chief Minister

and signed by the State Secretary was handed to the Penghulu (Chief) of Long Terawan stating that the latter's term of service as penghulu would be terminated this September. No reason was given but it was believed that the penghulu and his family were active on the Berawan land struggle.

The Berawans maintain that their settlement existed over a century before the creation of the Mulu National Park. The state government is refusing to negotiate with the Berawans regarding their land claims.

According to the Sarawak Chief Minister, Taib Mahmud, "If we are to entertain these greedy people, then it would set a precedent and an encouragement for others to make similar claims. Soon all state land could be in these greedy people's hand ... The Berawans do not have any proof of their NCR claims to the land at Mulu." (People's Mirror newspaper, 7-7-93)

What You Can Do

Write to Malaysia's Tourism Minister, politely informing him that you will not consider Malaysia as a tourist destination while the oppression of the Berawans and other indigenous tribes continues.

Dato' Sabbaruddin Chik, Culture Arts and Tourism Minister, 34-36th Floor, Menara Dato' Onn, Putra World Trade Centre, 45 Jalan Tun Ismail, 50694 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Sources: Compiled from the Berawan pamphlets entitled "The Berawan Speaks: Land is our fortress of survival", Berawan Press Statement, various newspapers and oral tradition of the Berawans.

detained for fourteen days at the Police Station in Marudi. After two adjournments, the Prosecution decided to drop the charges against all the defendants. The Kayans are suing the Police (Government of Malaysia) for wrongful arrest and malicious prosecution. The hearing started on April 29th, 1993 at the Sessions Court, Miri and was attended by 100 native representatives from the Baram region including the plaintiffs.

The hearing has been adjourned.

Gara Jalong prevented from leaving Malaysia

On May 17th 1993, Gara Jalong was seated on an aeroplane at Subang International airport, Kuala Lumpur, en route to Bangkok, where he was to attend the Asian Conference on the Rights of Indigenous/Tribal People in Chiangmai, May 17th - 23rd. Malaysian immigration officials then hauled him off the plane minutes before departure, and confiscated his passport and boarding pass. No reasons were given. When he tried again the next day with a new ticket, again he was denied permission but again no reason was given. Gara commented: "This year has been declared the Year of Indigenous Peoples. That I am being prevented from leaving the country to attend this conference is unwarranted . . . I feel truly sad. It is a loss

not just for me but also for the peoples of Malaysia".

Gara is a spokesperson for indigenous communities in Sarawak, particularly his own Kenyah people of Long Geng. He has been jailed in the past for his activities and still faces further court cases in Sarawak.

Thomas Jalong was prevented by the Malaysian authorities from attending the ITTO Conference in Japan last November.

What You Can Do

Write to or phone your Malaysian Embassy to protest. Publicity and protest over the Gara Jalong case will ensure that such moves backfire against the Malaysian Government.

Permit denied for Indigenous Cultural Event

* An exhibition and cultural celebration for indigenous people from all over Malaysia, planned to be

COVE/MALLARD Continued from p. 7

important this roadless corridor is to grizzly recovery in the Greater Salmon/Selway ecosystem.

Resistance So Far

Resistance started last year with the establishment of a direct action base camp in the area. Although not nearly enough activists came to the camp, the cost of law enforcement for surveillance and the few arrests that happened, was over \$200,000. This year the Ancient Forest Bus Brigade acquired a 20 acre plot close to the cut areas and over the summer, 80 activists have consistently taken direct action against the Forest Service and the local logging company and 20 people have been arrested, 12 of them, for stopping access to road construction crews. They were jailed for over three weeks, as the authorities try to wear down resistance by slowing down the court process.

On August 8 gun-toting federal agents ransacked the base camp, taking many items including credit cards and money. The raid was to gather evidence for a Grand Jury which is being convened to investigate alleged tree-spiking. Four individuals have been named to appear before the Grand Jury, an institution with sweeping powers to interrogate, fine and imprison social change activists. It has previously been used to

break the backs of the Black Panthers, the American Indian Movement, and most recently the animal rights movement.

On August 14 Steve Paulsen of Wild Rockies EF! was on his way to a concert and rally at the base camp when he was badly beaten by a number of drunken loggers. He suffered a broken rib and needed a number of stitches in his face. The loggers then proceeded to base camp where they attempted to incite a fight with people there. An ABC camera crew was at the camp and caught the whole thing on film!

Resistance is set to continue. But we need your help.

Some facts about the Salmon Selway to remember:

*Of the 5,000,000 acres comprising the Salmon Selway, 1,000,000 is unprotected roadless, virgin national forest.

*145 miles of new roads will be cut by the Forest Service to aid timber extraction. 200 clearcut "harvest units" of an average size of 40 acres will be used to destroy the forest.

*The cost to US taxpayers, in this apparently "free market economy" is \$6,000,000. Logging in many National Forests is subsidised.

What You Can Do

Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) has been intro-

duced in Sibu, Sarawak from April 30th - May 1st, was refused a police permit on the 26th April.

European Parliament: New resolution on Sarawak

On May 27, the European Parliament adopted a new resolution on Sarawak reaffirming the call for a moratorium on the import of tropical timber from Sarawak until the issues of land rights and forest sustainability are settled "notwithstanding the economic interests of firms from the Community established in Malaysia", asks for speedy implementation of eco-labelling for all wood, and asks the EC to urge the Japanese Government to discourage further import of tropical timber into Japan by Japanese companies.

Sources: Sahabat Alam Malaysia, 13 June 1993 and Asia Pacific Solidarity, August 1993.

duced by Carolyn Maloney, Democrat from New York. It would protect 15 million acres of public, wilderness, create a wildland recovery system, protect Native American religious and treaty areas for national park status. Another 2.5 million acres would be protected as key corridors between wilderness areas. NREPA needs international support and more sponsors in congress. Please contact

Rep. Elizabeth Furse (Oregon Democrat) and ask her to co-sponsor: 1-800 442 4003 or 202-225-0855 fax 503-326-5066.

Contact the following and ask them to protect the Wild Rockies through NREPA or similar measures:

President Bill Clinton, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500 (202) 456-1111

Vice President Al Gore, Office of the Vice President, Old Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20501.

Rep. George Miller, D-CA, ph. 510-602-1880.

Rep. Gerry Studds, ph. 202-225-3111 fax 617-770-2984.

Rep. Larry LaRocco, D-ID, ph. 208-667-2111 fax 208-765-0111.

All Representatives can be written to at : U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

Please also contact

Senator Max Baucus, D-MT, 1-800-332-6106 fax 406-657-6793, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

Please help, contact:

Wild Rockies Earth First! PO Box 26 Dixie ID 83525 Tel/Fax: (208) 882 2581 (Ramon, room 252) or Tel: (406) 728 5733 Fax: (406) 728 9432 Email en:earthfirst

Seeking Development without Devastation

by John Seed

Following John Seed's visit to Siberia last year, several possibilities emerged for the conservation of the vast forests that are threatened there. On account of the extreme economic hardship in the region, all of these depend upon some form of economic development assistance to compensate the loss of income from logging and hunting that would accompany nature conservation.

As described in WRR 23, the forests of Siberia are the world's largest, covering 2.3 million square miles and containing 57% of the world's coniferous forests and one fifth of the world's total forest area.

Over one million indigenous people live within this region. The area is rich in biodiversity and home to many endangered species including the Siberian tiger. The forests are largely intact, but are now under threat from multinational companies such as Weyerhaeuser and Hyundai, who have commenced logging operations within the former Soviet Union.

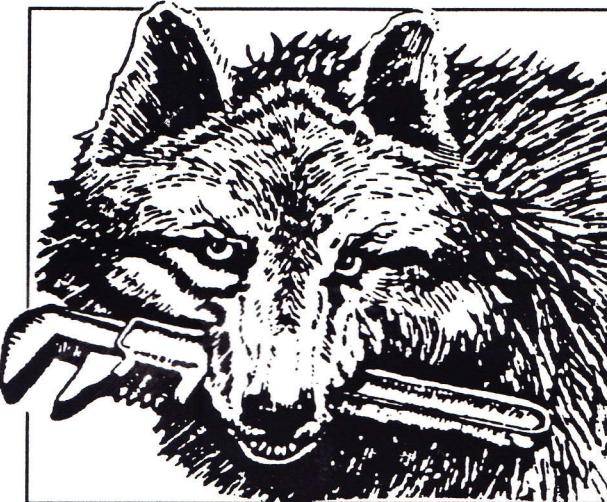
In May this year, the Australian Government Department of the Environment (DEST) funded the Rainforest Information Centre (RIC) to look at various possibilities of sustainable timber harvesting in buffer zones surrounding potential nature reserves in eastern Siberia and, more importantly, to assess the possibility of setting up small industries to sustainably harvest the non-timber forest products in these buffer zones.

Mark Broomhall, director of RIC's Pacific Ecoforestry Program, travelled to Siberia in June along with Jenne de Beere of Amsterdam, the world's leading authority on non-timber forest products.

Based on their findings, we are now looking for funding for the conservation/sustainable development of two areas in Eastern Siberia.

1. The Bikin Valley

The home of the Udege people (see story in WRR 23). From their explorations of the forest and discussions with the Udege and the regional administration, we have the following proposals for the next steps for the conservation of the region:



Several non-timber forest products occur in the Bikin with good economic potential for the domestic Russian market and for export. These include the roots and leaves of *eleutherococcus senticosus* (Siberian ginseng), pine nuts, various forest berries and edible fungi and ferns.

"The Udege agreed that if we help them set up such enterprises, the vast majority of their forests will be preserved"

We were impressed with the fact that the Udege have no wish to engage in small-scale logging activities. We were further impressed by the strength of the Udege's leadership. What is lacking is market information, contacts, knowledge of quality standards in the trade and above all, the skills to develop opportunities in "new" markets.

We are proposing:

- * to send one of their English-speaking leaders to a two-month management course for NGO's at the Asian Institute of Management in Manila;

- * to buy some basic equipment for

properly drying *eleutherococcus* leaves;

* for Jenne de Beere to make a second visit to the area early in 1994 to help the Udege Association set up their forest products enterprise.

The Udege have agreed in principle that if we can help them set up such economic enterprises, the vast majority of the forests under their control will be preserved. Management plans and a contract to this effect remain to be negotiated and signed and Jenne will do this.

Jenne will also visit other parts of Russia to explore market opportunities. In addition, he will hold extensive discussions with the leadership of the Association of the Small Peoples of the North who have expressed a great deal of interest in what we are doing with the Udege. This association represents over 1 million indigenous peoples from some 26 ethnic groups most of whom live in or adjacent to the Siberian forests. They would like us to extend our work with the Udege and explore possible linkages with other initiatives being tried elsewhere in Siberia.

2. Khabarovsk

Another of the 4 areas that Jenne and Mark visited was Khabarovsk, a city a few hundred kilometers from the Bikin. Since John Seed's preliminary visit to the area a year ago, we had been in communication with the following organisations there: the Far Eastern Association of Economic Corporation, the People's Academic of Sciences, Far Eastern Branch, the Wildlife Fund of Khabarovsk, Proutist Universal, The Lotus Centre and the Institute for Complex Studies of Regional Problems.

From them we learned that the central government had issued the

order to create the Hingon National Park in the North Western part of the nearby Jewish Oblast. This is a forested mountain chain over which tigers migrate from China. The Institute for Complex Studies of Regional Problems, was working with Chinese officials to make the Chinese part of the Hingon mountain chain a park as well. It was thought that the park on the Siberian side could be a million acres.

"Studies are needed to identify options that are in harmony with the proposed reserves"

Last month, Jenne and Mark only had time to fly over the area and hold discussions with officials from the various organisations. However, the situation looks promising and they learned also of a second potential large nature reserve in the region where our input could make a difference.

These reserves have wide support in scientific and government circles but are stalled for economic reasons - they need to get local people on side and this is difficult to accomplish because the reserves would interfere with existing livelihoods in the region. We have suggested to our contacts there that this could possibly be resolved as in projects we have designed in PNG and Ecuador, where cessation of industrial logging was accompanied by the creation of new, small-scale benign economic activities for local people. They have encouraged us to find out if this is indeed possible. After Jenne and Mark's visit there, we believe that ecological, social and economic studies are needed to provide sufficient data to identify potential economic development options that are in harmony with the proposed reserves. To support the funding proposals we would then approach US and European development assistance funding sources to establish such ventures.

We propose to employ suitably qualified Russians to conduct studies leading to reports on:

1. Conservation values of the proposed reserve - details are needed of fauna, flora, geography, scenic qualities, extent of human im-

pacts, possible park boundaries etc.;

2. Social impact - a sociologist will visit the villages in and surrounding the proposed reserves to determine how much impact the conservation proposals would have on hunting, logging and other existing usage and determine what we have to do to enlist the support of local people for our the reserve proposals;

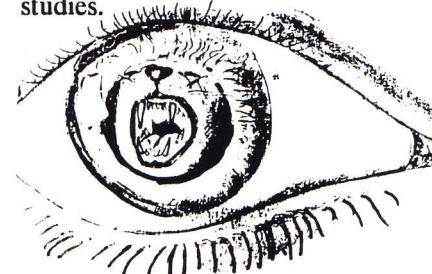
3. Potential to replace existing activities with gathering and marketing non-timber products (berries, ferns, fungi, pine-nuts etc), sustainable forestry activities etc. in the buffer zones of the proposed reserves.

We expect the studies to take about 9 months each and each to cost about \$3000 (approx half wages, half travel, communication and other expenses).

We have also been advised that we will need to employ someone to liaise and negotiate with the various levels of bureaucracy which would have some interest in the proposal (National, regional, local administrations, forestry and hunting departments and more) This person would also study the various relevant Russian legislations relating to nature conservation and prepare a report on the legal situation and the implications of the different options which exist.

On September 1, Giselle Thomas, a volunteer from RIC flew to Siberia for 3 months to supervise and co-ordinate these studies and the funding proposals which will stem from them. En route to Khabarovsk she spent some days in Tokyo holding discussions with the powerful Japanese coop movement which will provide the likely market for the Siberian forest products flowing from the buffer zones of the conserved areas.

We are grateful to DEST (Australian Government's Dept. of Environment, Sport and Territories) who have once again come up with a small grant for Giselle's travel and living expenses and for commencement of the studies. RIC is presently seeking funding for the bulk of the studies.



The Struggle for Land & the Fate of the Forests

Edited by Marcus Colchester and Larry Lohman Published by Zed Books, The Ecologist and The World Rainforest Movement

This much-needed book on landlessness, the primary cause of tropical deforestation, will be reviewed in the next edition of World Rainforest Report. Two excerpts:

"Deforestation . . . is an expression of social injustice."

"The ills of landlessness and rural poverty have been with us for a long time. The loss of tropical forests, however, is a much more acute problem. Unless decisive action is taken soon the vast majority . . . will be destroyed forever. Agrarian reforms based on indigenous and peasant initiatives provide the only means of averting this biological and social catastrophe."

Quotes from Edward Abbey

All gold is fool's gold

When a man's best friend is a dog, that dog is in trouble

Wilderness is the only thing left that is worth saving

Skipping Stones:

A Multicultural Children's Quarterly (P.O. Box 3939, Eugene, Oregon 97403 USA. Tel. # 503-342-4956) is a non-profit children's quarterly that encourages cooperation, creativity and celebration of cultural, linguistic, and ecological richness.

Submissions welcome in all languages. Subscriptions: \$15, Institutions: \$20, Worldwide: \$25. Sample copy, \$5.

Low-income discount: 50%.

Timber Fever Sweeps PNG

Log Exports Triple in 12 Months

by George Marshall

Although Papua New Guinea has experienced resource scrambles before, few compare in speed or impact with the timber fever now sweeping the country. Such is the haste to export logs that in many places logging and shipping are taking place around the clock.

The conditions for the boom have been building for the past year. Recent log export bans in Laos and Cambodia and dramatic reductions in log exports from Sabah and Sarawak have caused panic buying in the South East Asian log market. Between March 1992 and March 1993, the market price of PNG logs rose from US\$81 to US\$130 per cubic metre. Log export volumes have tripled in the past year.

PNG is now paying a high price for ignoring repeated warnings about the loss of government control over its timber industry. In 1989 an exhaustive two year Commission of Inquiry into the timber industry concluded that "some of the companies...are roaming the countryside with the self assurance of robber barons: bribing politicians and leaders, creating disharmony and ignoring laws."

"PNG is paying the price for ignoring warnings about loss of government control over timber"

The government was very slow to respond, despite an attempt to assassinate the Commissioner in the course of the Inquiry. Only one company had its permit revoked, and it was not for a further two years that Ted Diro, the deputy Prime Minister and a former Minister of Forests, was stripped of office on the 83 corruption charges raised by the Inquiry.

The recent surge in exports has forced a new sense of urgency. On the 6th of May, the dynamic new Minister of Forests, Tim Neville, announced a wide range of measures including strict quotas on log exports, increases in royalty payments and a full review of every timber operation in the country. Immediately after the announcement, the industry launched an advertising campaign denouncing the Minister, and PNG environment groups took the unprecedented step of taking out their own newspaper advertisement pledging him their full support.

The Minister faces an uphill struggle against an industry that has greatly consolidated its power during the 1980's. One company alone, the Malaysian based Rimbunan Hijau, now exports 86% of PNG logs. Its turnover of more than \$1 billion a year outstrips all but the largest mining companies.

"The problem is communities have lost faith in government bringing them development"

Even if the proposed reforms are successful, they will not deal with the underlying problem in PNG; that local communities have lost all faith in government to bring them development. With ten of the 19 provincial governments now under suspension, logging companies have been quick to fill the void, offering tribal landowners roads, schools, medical facilities and royalties.

RIMBUNAN HIJAU

CONTINUES TO DESTROY PNG'S FORESTS



"Don't you know these companies are like a caterpillar; once they eat all the leaves from a tree they move on to another one." -Mr. Reeve

Rimbunan Hijau controls 80% of our log exports. We are losing our independence. This is



Brought to you by
PNG Rescue Committee

One of the posters distributed by Ecological Enterprises. Malaysian firm Rimbunan Hijau is responsible for 86% of all PNG log exports.

Invariably, their dreams have been shattered by the realities of large scale logging. "Our rivers and streams have been polluted, and the wells have dried up. The logging company has not met any of its permit conditions" says Barnabus Alaya about the operations of Rimbunan Hijau in the Siassi islands. His people want the company to leave and he is working with them to develop alternative sources of income such as small scale sawmilling.

"Police are investigating two attempts to shoot dynamic new Forestry Minister Tim Neville"

Chris Cox, director of the Forest Management Foundation, is concerned that such alternatives may now be unable to compete. "There is now a very real danger that the balance could swing back again to large scale logging," he says. The Foundation administers a pioneering community timber project in Bainings, West New Britain, which counts B&Q amongst its customers. Last month a Malaysian logging company dropped bulldozers on the shore and started illegal logging in the project area.

The stakes are already high and are likely to become higher. Police are currently investigating two attempts to shoot Minister Neville and the press are giving increasing credence to rumours of a \$50,000 contract on his head.

Neville is determined not to be frightened off from implementing the reforms. "One of my brothers was confronted by four Malaysians and told to get me to back off, or he and his family were as good as dead," he said. "But I'm going to see it through, no matter what."

George Marshall is Director of the London Rainforest Action Group

Sarawak All Over Again? Manus As An Example

by Glen Barry

The island of Manus, approximately 70 by 30 km, lies north of the PNG mainland. Logging is not as heavy on Manus as in some other provinces. Yet, its story is indicative of the onslaught of industrial logging in PNG, and the potential to slow the tide if local communities are helped to organize. Manus' forests are thick; particularly in the western half where 60% of the forest is of one tree species and nearly all trees are over 50cm in girth. Rimbunan Hijau controls all logging concessions on Manus. With a timber volume of 3.35 million m³, the national government allowed a harvest of 232,000 m³ for the past year. At such a rate, the provincial forestry officer expected that commercial forest would be gone in Manus in eight years. A Provincial Forest Act had been developed which called for sustained yield management at the rate of 84,000 m³/year. But the act had been suspended, after Rimbunan Hijau flew landowners that supported high cutting rates to the capital to lobby. Logging companies in the province routinely exceeded allowable cuts in any case. The fragile island has ex-

perienced horrible environmental damage. Though Rimbunan Hijau states selective logging is being carried out, with such magnificent primary forest, nearly all trees are over the size limit. Thus, every tree is "selected" and nothing is left. There are no protected areas in the Western part of the island, where most logging is occurring. The River Nyada, upon which people are extremely dependent for everything from fish to washing their sago, is very polluted, and can no longer be used. Coral reefs are dying all around river discharge areas. Meri Manus, a local women's group, reports malnutrition, particularly protein deficiency, is very high as wildlife decreases. Meri Manus has been carrying out awareness work in the area for years. In conjunction with Ecological Enterprises, this work was intensified over the past months. During this time a detailed slide show which illustrated the changes wrought by industrial logging, and numerous informational materials, were made available as patrols were made to villages experiencing and targeted for logging. In addition, a heavy media presence

and governmental lobbying seems to have paid off. In mid-July of 1993, a week after the conclusion of the awareness patrols, the Provincial forest act was reinstated and thus logging was reduced by two thirds.

There is yet reason to be concerned. Such a small island, in which the terrestrial and marine environment are virtually one, may not handle even the "sustained yield". And such restrictions have been routinely disregarded by the timber industry in the past. Yet, the initiative for restricting logging has come from the people themselves. This is not the first province where local landowners, empowered with the knowledge of the consequences of heavy logging, have changed their minds. It is a credit to PNG that indigenous title to tribal land is respected.

For more information on Papua New Guinea, please check the png.campaign.org or reg.newguinea conferences. Both contain in depth reports by East New Britain Social Action Committee and the Pacific Heritage Foundation.

If you would like to get involved in the PNG Campaign, please contact: Glen Barry Ecological Enterprises 2701 University Avenue, B-368 Madison, WI 53705 USA en:switpi 608 233 2194 (work and fax)

Greenfire Landowner Awareness

The following letter is from Glen Barry, Director of Ecological Enterprises, an NGO devoted to raising the awareness of PNG landowners to the impact of industrial logging. (See box above for address).

Greetings! As you probably know by now, Julie and I have returned from Papua New Guinea. Things went exceptionally well; with the Greenfire Landowner Awareness patrols making it to five provinces. Highlights included helping the Manus Women's Group cut back logging by 2/3 on their beautiful island, documenting the 15 logging operations in East New Britain (1000 bulldozers unloaded last year), and helping the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific and the University of Papua New Guinea to develop a database of indigenous uses of rainforest plants and animal life.

I thought you might be interested to see some of the latest poster efforts. Because of funding from the Rainforest Info. Centre, we are able to make these posters to follow up on our patrol efforts over the last few months.

In conversations with dozens of groups and many individuals, the resolve emerged to start a campaign targeted on Rimbunan Hijau, the Malaysian timber giant responsible for 80% of the devastation being wrought. Thus, many of the posters are directly targeted at raising the profile of this company, and in addition will be personalized for the province and particular timber area they are being sent to.

These posters are being photocopied by hundreds of individuals and are finding their way into villages faced with logging decisions. RIC has agreed to cover the costs of production and distribution these current posters but future campaign materials must be funded. One mailing, complete production and distribution costs, runs at approximately \$500.

LOGGING PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT?



EXPORT LOGGING JOBS END QUICKLY,
SUPPORT A LOG EXPORT BAN.

Designed by the Gulf Environmental and Social Concern Group

Carried by the
ANCI Action Committee

BUSH HERITAGE - BUYING IT BACK

by Judy Henderson*

Bob Brown, Tasmanian environmentalist and former Green MP has not had much free time on his hands since moving out of politics earlier this year. He has been helping the newcomer to the conservation scene in Australia, The Australian Bush Heritage Fund, secure its third block of land to protect it from the hands of the developers. Bush Heritage is already acquiring two forest blocks adjacent to the World Heritage Area in Tasmania and has now expanded to the mainland with the purchase of an outstanding fan palm block at the Daintree.

First Tasmania; Now the Daintree

A significant proportion of land of high conservation value is privately owned in Australia, and as such is beyond the reach of government protection. This land is increasingly being targeted by destructive schemes such as industrial developments, inappropriate tourism and housing estates. The aim of Bush Heritage is to purchase and manage these private lands of outstanding ecological significance which is under threat. As a supporter recently wrote - "The best way to protect land is to buy it!"

Modelled on the huge US conservation body, Nature Conservancy, which has an annual turnover of around \$180 million, Bush Heritage was established in 1990 when two magnificent eucalypt forest blocks situated in the Great Western Tiers came up for auction. Realising that they were destined for clear-felling, Bob Brown used his recently awarded Goldman environmental prize of \$49,000 as seed money to buy the blocks and, together with the help of friends, set up the Fund.

"Bob Brown used his environment prize as seed money. Since then, Bush Heritage has flourished"

Since then Bush Heritage has flourished. It is now a nationally registered non-profit organisation with its own tax-deductibility status and a growing number of regular supporters.

The recent purchase of 8.17 hectares of marshy fan palm forest in Palm Valley has caused great excitement at Bush Heritage. The land ad-



joins several blocks purchased last year by the Wet Tropics Management Agency in their Acquisition Program and thus totally complements the Wet Tropics purchase. As Director of Wet Tropics, Peter Hitchcock wrote, "the Palm Road blocks are nothing short of aesthetically spectacular". Thousands of tourists visit the world famous Daintree each year and many come to the Palm Road region which is an important area of remnant lowland tropical rainforest dominated by the spectacular Fan Palm, *licuala ramsayi*.

"The best way to protect land is to buy it!"

The territory is also the home of the rare cassowary. The cassowary has a reputation as a rainforest regenerator with its capacity to ingest large rainforest fruits and disperse the seeds in other areas of the forest. The bird is not only beautiful in its own right but plays a critical role in the maintenance of this ecosystem.

Recent studies have indicated that the habitat of the cassowary has contracted to such an extent that it is under threat of extinction. Bush Heritage's purchase will ensure that

another portion of habitat for this beautiful flightless bird is protected.

A major appeal is now being launched by Bush Heritage to pay off this acquisition so that the Directors and Scientific Advisory Committee can begin the exciting process of identifying the next purchase. There is certainly no lack of potential areas of private land high conservation value appearing on the market which need the protection offered by Bush Heritage.

What You Can Do

You can help by sending donations to:

Australian Bush Heritage Fund, 102 Bathurst Street, Hobart, 7000. (Tel 002 315475, Fax 002 312491).

SEE "BUSH HERITAGE" INSERT IN THIS EDITION OF WRR FOR DETAILS ON HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE.

* Judy Henderson is one of the founding directors of the Australian Bush Heritage Fund.



Rainforests and High Finance

A Faerie Tale and Open Letter to Alice Walker

by Alastair McIntosh

A faerie story that gives an insight into the workings of the Rainforest Information Centre and reveals what some believe the forest is all about.

We had been nine days together. It had been a busy time, difficult at times, but a good time. John Seed had asked me to spend ten days with the Rainforest Information Centre (RIC) in New South Wales, Australia, helping some twelve of his fellow directors - "green extremists" as ex-President Bush would have it - to learn to run their organisation more effectively.

We'd hatched the idea in Edinburgh after making music. John's an international eco-rock star. I play celtic heart music on the penny whistle. We'd been talking deep and visioning. He about RIC. Me about the MSc course in human ecology which I direct at Edinburgh University.

"This was intended to make environmental workers into more than just rebels without a clue"

I was describing our "Ecological Ethics and Education" module. It includes a feminist reappraisal of the denial of feeling which Plato set going, liberation theology, eco-psychology, creativity and consciousness raising. But these were not primarily what RIC was in need of. They lived all that. Ten years previously they had played a lead role in helping prevent the logging of Australia's Terania Creek and forming the Nightcap National Park. Now, with new battles against logging in New South Wales and internationally against Mitsubishi, they were in need of rather more conventional organisational skills to hold themselves together for the long-haul.

So it was that John zeroed in on my "Organisational Finance and Management" module. This was intended to make future environmental workers into more than just rebels without a clue. And I told him that it had a hidden half to its title. An extension, which I hadn't bothered worrying most of my academic colleagues with: "Organisational Finance and Management - as a Far Out Spiritual Experience"!

He rolled about laughing. I explained how something as potentially boring as finance and management can come alive by drawing out both the beauty and perversions of the underlying spiritual psychodynamics. This can be done even while teaching accountancy! You end up getting under the skin of money, seeing how it can both affirm and destroy the lifeforce. Management itself is twin-bladed. It can be an instrument of control and exploita-



tion, or a caring discipline capable of combining organisational goals with individual fulfilment.

John booked me on the spot. He'd find the fare, I'd give the time.

* * *

"Of course, such high finance cannot be taught without using Alice Walker's poetry to balance the books"

Of course, such high finance cannot be taught without using Alice Walker's poetry to balance the books. I mean, Alice Walker the great alternative economist, who sees that "We alone can devalue gold by not caring if it falls or rises in the marketplace". Alice, who tells us to Resist! because "Violence does not work except for the man who pays your salary ... if you could still weep you would not take the job". And Alice, whose eyes see that "The diamonds on Liz's bosom are not as bright as his eyes the morning they took him to work in the mines".

And so - Alice Walker, dear black American prophet of what it means to come alive to life...Let me tell you a story from the last day of my training course in Australia. You see, nine years ago I gave some organisational finance and management advice to your friend, Efua Dorkenoo. It was when she was setting up Forward, the movement against female circumcision. Later I lost touch. But then I saw her on TV featuring with you on the South Bank Show. The programme ended with those words which made me whoop aloud, about resistance being the secret of possessing joy. Efua symbolised resistance; you, joy. I knew that I must look her up again.

We met in London's Africa Centre earlier this year. Efua insisted I write to you, even transcribing your private address into my copy of *Horses Make a Landscape Look More Beautiful*. She said, and I question if I'm worthy of this, to say to you that I'm a "long lost brother". She wanted me to tell you how I use your poems in my teaching.

I said you must get letters like that all the time. But she made me promise to tell you anyway...like how I'll draw Horses or Revolutionary Petunias out of the pockets in my Harris tweed smock, and YELL out a poem in the middle of a lecture. And then, maybe read another, this time, ever so tenderly. And perhaps further articulate the point by pulling out my whistle. Plaintive grace notes leading to elation. Resistance to joy.

"The diamonds on Liz's bosom are not as bright as his eyes the morning they took him to work in the mines"

All this, Alice...and this will make you smile...to students of forestry or resource management or MBAs...engineering, veterinary science ... divinity ... even, animal production! And there'll be tears, and rage, and melting of hearts (maybe some hardening too, but it's all about whole living and sometimes the crust has to harden before it flakes). Half of them doubtless think I'm crazy, but the Africans and Indians usually love it. And I do get invited back, well, quite often.

But back to Australia, and to your poem, *Rage*. It just captured the dynamic with those amazing folks at RIC. 'Twas like I was trying to press them to order, and they were serving anarchy, but more interwoven than that. At first we'd seemed so far apart. I felt like in a psychological three-piece suit, telling them what they didn't always want to hear and maybe wasn't right for them. But then we got on to using Quaker business practice. And Alison invoked the Goddess (there being, of course, no male and no female in your "good friend" Jesus Christ. I just love that poem!) And we danced round the fire. Took turns with childcare. Made music: in short, made love in so many of its colours.

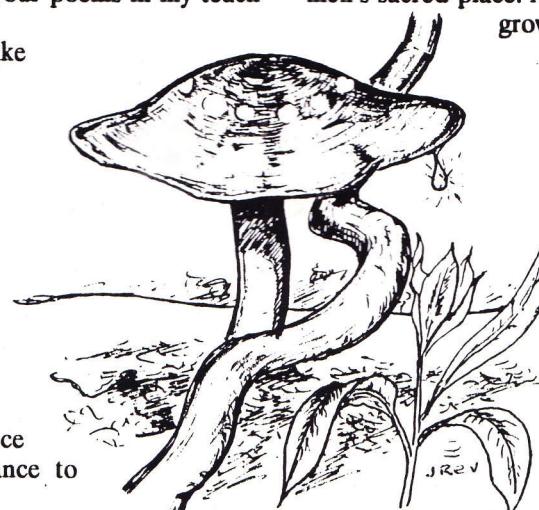
By the ninth day, the anarchy and order came into relationship. Just like you half-promised it would, Alice, when you wrote for me, for RIC, for everyone that:

*In me there is a rage to defy
the order of the stars
despite their pretty patterns.
To see if Gods who hold forth now
on human thrones
can will away my lust
to dare
and press to order the anarchy
I would serve."*

And so to the tenth and last day. We were all swimming skyclad in Protesters Falls. Would you believe, this hundred foot waterfall was officially named that by the government in honour of those who had saved Terania Creek from being logged! The falls are the Aboriginal men's sacred place. Afterwards, we walked along an overgrown forest path to the women's sacred

place, the Circle Pool. Single file we stepped, mindfully, taking it in turns to carry the baby.

Leeches. Brightly coloured birds calling. The scent of flowers. Trees. Grass. And someone upfront calls out, "WOW!". Each woman and man goes "Wow!" as they reach the same spot. Me too.



"What kind of a faerie lives here?"

And there, like out of a child's picture book, is this hollow rotting tree. It has an arched door-like opening overhung with dusty old cobwebs.

At the entrance, the en-trance as Mary Daly might say, was this mushroom. I tell you, Alice, it was quite the most exquisitely beautiful mushroom I have ever seen.

It had a slightly bulbous, pristine white stem. And a perfectly circular mottled grey cap, around which was a ring of white spots. It was just so lovely! As crisp and fresh as God in the morning light. Even these - especially these! - seasoned ecologists gazed in wonder.

And I said, "What kind of a wizard lives in this house?" Then I corrected myself. It was too small for a wizard's house. So I said: "What kind of a faerie lives here?"

Everyone laughed. I mean, here was me, the relative straight in the group, enquiring after faeries!

After a while the others moved on down to Circle Pool. But I stayed, Alice. I stayed for me and you and all the people I love like I love you.

I stayed. And staring far through the arched door, I spoke so deep within myself that it rang aloud through the whole forest. I asked, again, "What kind of a faerie lives here?"

John Seed's *Extinction* song echoed back to me. (John! You old shaman!) *Sap coursing through a mammal branch/ Touches you, a trembling human being/ Send your roots back through the tree of life/ Shedding false humanis-*



tic beliefs/ You fall to your knees/ In some still natural place/ Embrace the trees/ Feel ecology pierce your heart.

"You fall to your knees!" - "go on," I felt, "fall to your knees". I did. On the reddish-brown earth. A bit self-consciously, but never mind.

And again the question. Bursting in me now. "What kind of a faerie lives here?"

Repeated. Half thinking that if there were such things as flower faeries, one might dash past just on the edge of my field of vision, through the cobwebs and up into the tree. If faeries were real, now was the time to see one, or never.

"A person becomes a person inasmuch as they're listened to, allowed to be visible"

In the back of the tree was some termite-eaten wood. As I dwelt on my question, I was half-blocking it out from my mind. It was distracting me. I could vaguely see in it a face like a grim old man. He was staring, motionless, down at the earth, rather like one of those New Guinea spirit masks. Not what I was looking for.

Again, my question. And this time, the old man spoke. Yes, he actually spoke! As clear and subjectively objective as you could want!

In a big, empowered, booming voice, he spoke, and said: "I am the faerie who lives here".

"No, no," I replied, "You're just a sour old face I'm imagining in rotting wood. I'm looking for a flower faerie. You're not one of them".

"Oh," he responded, quizzically. "I thought you were the one who's always going on to your students about radical feminist theology?"

"What's that got to do with it?"

"Just that you're always telling them about calling one-another into being. That a person becomes a person in community inasmuch as they're heard, listened to, allowed to be visible."

Well! I tell you Alice. He had me by my own ideals! To deny his reality would have been to deny part of what I most value.

So I said to him, "Fair enough, but if I accept that, I'm going to start seeing faeries all over the place."

He laughed and laughed. He said that there are faeries all over the place if we'll only acknowledge them! And I saw that when mythologist Joseph Campbell talks about "Masks of God", there's really no limit on the numbers or forms of these masks. Here I was, face to face with one of them.

"There are faeries all over the place if we'll only acknowledge them!"

"Tell me then," I asked, "what kind of a faerie are you?"

He swelled with pride. He smiled the smile of one who knew he was about to give another big laugh. "I," he said, "am the Rotting Tree Faerie!"

As he said it, I could feel from him the great processes of death and decay going on in this old tree. And not just that tree, but all rotting trees. It was the liberation theology principle of the preferential option for the poor applied in nature; God, the nature spirit at work. Grafting away at what most people would dismiss as one of the world's less glamourous occupations.

"So tell me," I asked, "I always thought faeries looked joyful. You look like the undertaker I suppose you are. Tell me then, what kind of things give you joy in life?"

Again, a great expectant smile. This was the question he'd been most looking forward to. His voice boomed out: "Rotting trees give me joy in life!"

And I laughed and laughed with him as he pointed out that even the cobwebs over his door were falling apart. Everything about his house was decaying. He just loved it this way. It was the same pleasure I saw in John Seed when he told me about his house in the forest. He'd made it out of a scrapped double-decker bus. He took pride in using only materials so old that nobody else would recycle them. I'd asked if that didn't compromise beauty, but he said it was the beauty. I agreed when he took me there. It was magical. A wizard's house; big enough too.

"One last question," I begged. "If you're the Rotting Tree Faerie, and if you're totally into rot and death and all that side of life, how come that at your door is quite the most sublime mushroom I've ever seen?"

"One side of his Janus face was the mask of death in wood. The other, the mushroom"

More great laughter. The whole forest joined in. I mean, we human beings are just so funny sometimes. "The mushroom," he said, "is at my door because I AM the Rotting Tree Faerie".

And he let me feel the mushroom's mycelia reach down into the roots. And up through every part of that dying tree. I felt the molecular processes of rot taking place. I felt what Walt Whitman called the "procreant urge of the world"; the joyfulness of that lovemaking between fungus and tree, together recycling nutrients and biomass for new growth.

I saw the direct connection between the mushroom and the faerie. It was his Janus face. One side was the mask of death in crumbled wood. The other, the mushroom - a veritable flower faerie. I ran down to Circle Pool to tell everyone what had just happened. Steve, with the long blond hair and the Aboriginal soul, just beamed joy back into my face.

"Now you know what the forest is really about," he said.

And I realised I had just graduated from a training course in organisational finance and management. That, as a far out spiritual experience.

Alastair McIntosh is director of the Master of Science course in the Department of Human Ecology at Edinburgh University.

Aguarunas and Huambisas Fight US Oil Co.

Over one hundred Aguaruna and Huambisa Indian communities in the Santiago and Maranon River Basins in Peru's northern jungle are continuing their struggle against the US oil company Edward Callan Interests (ECI) of Houston, Texas. Indian protests have been met with silence from the company and repression by the Peruvian military.

A geophysical survey of the region (called Lot 50) which ended in late 1992 left 175 km. of paths through the forest, the destruction resulting from tons of TNT explosions, and over 100 helipad clearings each in virgin jungle.

Nearby Indian communities, most of which are legally titled, have seen the game they depend upon virtually disappear with the constant explosions and overflights by helicopters. Others have had valuable fruit trees and medicinal plants destroyed.

Indian leaders have made repeated attempts to meet with ECI. Finally, in mid-1992, company staff agreed to come to the communities but arrived accompanied by the army. Three days of protests proved fruitless, and the company rejected a compromise agreement proposed by the Aguaruna and Huambisa Council (CAH).

An Aguaruna representative travelled to Texas in November, 1992 and participated in a protest at ECI headquarters in Houston organized with the help of Houston Rainforest Action Group and local students. ECI refused to receive the Aguaruna representative and attempted to have police remove protesters.

An investigative commission with government representation visited Lot 50 in March of this year and confirmed CAH claims of massive violations of the environmental impact statement (EIS) filed by ECI with the Peruvian government. They include:

- * explosives use within 50 meters of river banks
- * violation of areas with government ecological protection
- * over 100 instead of the 20 helipad clearings authorized.
- * evidence indicating use of explosive charges in excess of size limits imposed by the EIS
- * no measures to protect archaeological sites from exploration activities

"The destruction by the geophysical survey will likely pale in comparison to that by the crude oil production contractor"

The destruction due to the geophysical survey will likely pale in comparison to that by the crude oil production contractor. To date the contractor has yet to enter the zone, though Shapiom Norringo Sesen, a CAH representative, reported in late July that this is imminent. CAH has renewed efforts to negotiate with ECI in order to



A future threatened by oil.

protect their homes and environment, sending another appeal directly to ECI's Houston headquarters but have yet to succeed in getting ECI to agree to direct negotiations.

Local Indian leaders protesting ECI's activities are encountering resistance from military authorities operating in concert with ECI. The free passage of CAH leaders through the zone is limited and one community leader has been arrested. Local leaders are particularly concerned with the increased access to Lot 50 for non-Indian colonists, resulting from the construction of roads and paths. Social unrest stemming from colonization has already resulted in the arrest and subsequent murder of one Aguaruna leader and has had severe ecological effects through the proliferation of cattle ranching.

What You Can Do

Please write a polite letter to the following people encouraging them to respect the land rights of the Aguaruna and Huambisa and protect the environment:

Mr. Richard Yarbrough, President, Edward Callan Interests, 1415 Louisiana, 43rd Floor Houston, TX 77002, USA

Emphasize that ECI should receive CAH representatives in Houston and sign a mutually agreed contract committing ECI to ecological protection measures before entering into production phase and that, as always, Indian land rights and the environment must be respected.

Ing. Alberto Fujimori, Presidente de la Republica del Peru, Palacio de Gobierno, Lima 1, Peru

Praise the President for his imposition of restrictions on Amazon oil concessions and encourage him to make the new hydrocarbons law responsive to environmental and human rights concerns. Direct his attention to the deplorable situation in Lot 50 and ask him to comply with Peruvian and international law in heeding CAH demands for an intact environment and respect for Indian rights.

TEXACO: Pay Your Dues

Indigenous People, Environmentalists, Call for International Boycott of Texaco
US oil company Texaco has pulled out of Ecuador after 20 years of environmental and social abuse. A major campaign aims to publicise the damage Texaco has done - and make the company clean up its mess. With four US companies moving into Ecuador, Texaco's case is an important precedent.

In early July 1993, a series of fact-finding visits and public forums were held in Ecuador to draw attention to the cumulative impacts of Texaco's 20 years in the Ecuadorian Amazon. During Texaco Week, Indigenous peoples' organizations, including the coordinator of Indian organizations of the Amazon (COICA), the national Indian organization (CONAIE) and regional organizations including CONFENIAE and FCUNAE, joined with environmental groups forming part of the "Amazonia for Life" Campaign in charging Texaco with contaminating the Ecuadorian rainforest, and with irresponsibility in not taking action to clean up its mess.

The coalition has called for an international boycott of Texaco products, and they have initiated a study of the socio-environmental impacts of Texaco's work.

The campaign to pressure Texaco, is considered urgent, since a report commissioned by Texaco in collaboration with the Ecuadorian government will be released in September. The report is expected to whitewash the issue of Texaco's pollution.

"The campaign to pressure Texaco is urgent, since a report to be released in September is expected to whitewash the issue"

After 2 decades of polluting the Ecuadorian rainforest to exploit its oil reserves, Texaco pulled out of the country last year, turning over to the Ecuadorian Government their oil facilities as well as serious environmental problems that will persist for generations. In response to a public outcry, the Government of Ecuador ordered an environmental audit of Texaco. The proceedings of this investigation, scheduled to be completed in September, have been withheld from the public and are available only to Texaco, the Ecuadorian state oil company, Petroecuador and the Ministry of Energy and Mines. Indications are that the Canadian company responsible for the audit, HBT Agra, is severely limiting its inquiry, following threats from Texaco that they would cooperate only if narrow

parameters were used. For example, the victims of Texaco's pollution, Indigenous peoples and farmers in the Amazon, are not being interviewed by the company.

Texaco's Legacy:

With four U.S.-based corporations descending upon the Ecuadorian forest to start up new oil projects, it is crucial that Texaco is held responsible for cleaning up its mess. The impact of Texaco's presence has been well documented:

- * 30 major oil spills dumping 17 million gallons of crude oil into the rivers of the Amazon (50% more than the Exxon Valdez disaster);

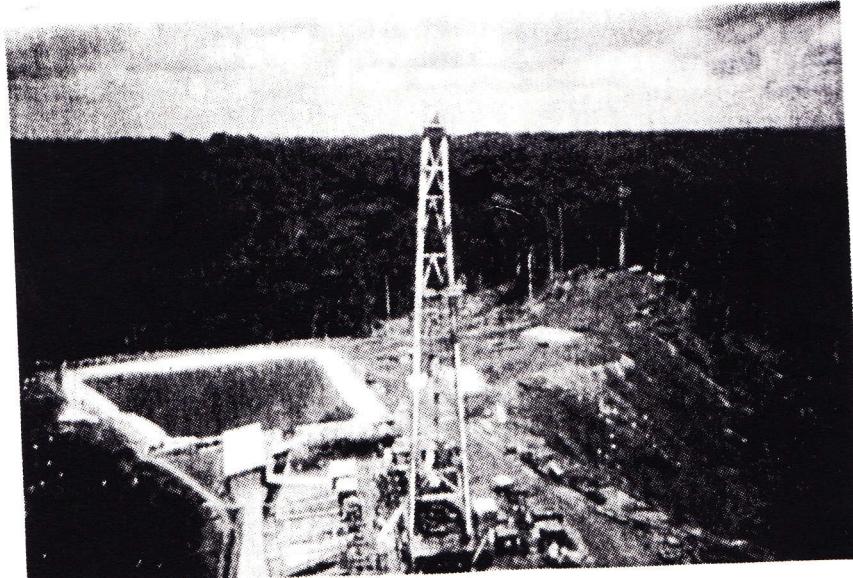
- * Discharges of 20 billion gallons of toxic chemicals;

- * Hundreds of toxic waste ponds abandoned;

- * Construction of a network of roads causing the colonization and deforestation of nearly 2,500,000 acres of tropical rainforests, displacing Quichua, Cofan, and Huaorani Native peoples;

- * Health effects among Indigenous peoples and small farmers, including malnutrition caused by pollution of fishing grounds, headaches, skin and gastrointestinal illnesses, and cancer.

A boycott of Texaco products is underway in Norway, and actions against Texaco have taken place in England, Denmark, and Holland. In May, a new coalition of US environmental and human rights groups which support of indigenous peoples of the Amazon sent a letter to Texaco's board chairman Alfred C. De Crane Jr., expressing their indignation at the company's recalcitrance. Valerio Grefa, of the Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), told the environmental coalition: "Texaco has set a bad example. If we do not establish a clear precedent, placing responsibility on them for the damage they have



caused, we will have in the future a school for similar bad treatment by other companies in the Ecuadorian Amazon and in other countries throughout the world".

What You Can Do:

Stop purchasing Texaco products. Cut your Texaco credit card in half and mail it to Alfred C. De Crane, CEO of Texaco with a letter written on toilet paper. Suggested text:

I have cut my Texaco Card in half and refuse to purchase your products until Texaco cleans up its mess in the Ecuadorian Amazon. The inquiry into your company's activities must be open to public scrutiny, and an impartial and independent investigation must be undertaken. Texaco should clean up the Amazon environment it has been polluting for the past twenty years. Where cleanup is not possible, the company should provide full compensation to the individuals and communities affected. Healthcare programs and clean drinking water should also be provided. I urge Texaco to repair the leaky oil tanks and corroded pipelines it abandoned, and to install injection wells and pollution controls to avoid further disasters.



Damage caused to Amazon forest by an oil well

Mr. Alfred C. De Crane, Chairman and CEO, Texaco Inc., 2000 Westchester Ave., White Plains NY 10650, USA. fax: (914) 253-7753
Join the campaign to pressure Texaco.

For more information contact Glen Switkes at Rainforest Action Network, 450 Sansome St., Suite 700, San Francisco CA 94111, USA Tel: (415) 398-4404 Fax: (415) 398-2732e-mail:

en.rainforest QR Paulina Garzon, Campana Amazonia por la Vida, Lerida 380 y Pontevedra, Quito Ecuador. Tel: (593) 2-526-994 Fax: (593) 2-547-516;

Maxus Oil, Maximum Damage

This Action Alert regarding the Maxus Energy Corp. project in the Ecuadorian Amazon comes from Accion Ecologica. The project is causing serious problems for Huaorani and Quichua indigenous peoples, as well as Yasuni National Park, a world biosphere reserve, and other areas of environmental protection. The project has the potential to destroy the Huaorani Indian culture by creating a means for farmers, lumber cutters, and ranchers to enter the reserve and to pollute one of the areas of greatest biodiversity on the planet.

The request for urgent action includes an update on specific impacts of the Maxus project to date:

Dallas-based Maxus Energy Corp. is constructing a road into Yasuni National Park and the Huaorani Indian reserve to construct a pipeline to pump out oil. Maxus has sought permission from Huaorani communities to allow the road to pass through their land by offering them presents, such as outboard motors, and flying them to meetings in the company helicopter.

The daughter of Ecuador's president, Alicia Duran Ballen, has been serving as an intermediary for Maxus in their dealings with the Huaorani. On August 13, at a meeting in the Huaorani village of Tonampari, the President of Ecuador, state officials, and Maxus executives signed an agreement which will set the terms of the relationship between Maxus and the Huaorani during the period of the construction of the road.

Here is an update on the impacts of the project:

- there are 300 migrant farmers who have settled in the Tiputini River area, despite Maxus' guarantee that no settlers will be allowed to enter the area;
- Maxus is dredging the Napo River and extracting rocks from the Aguarico, producing serious erosion in both rivers;
- Other protected areas are being affected by the deforestation promoted by Maxus including the south

of the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve; Maxus is buying 70,000 boards for their camps and drilling towers. This is affecting the Payamino zone;

- In May, in Yasuni national park, a pool of drilling mud contaminated the Tivacuno marshland area;
- a chemical spill took place in July at the Bogi well;
- three barges carrying drilling chemicals went aground, spilling their contents into the Napo and Tiputini Rivers in February and April of this year.

- Quichua Indian communities in the areas where the road is being built have had conflicts with Maxus based on the company's failure to comply with agreements signed with the communities. In other zones, such as the Rio Jivino, communities have opposed the passage of the road.

What You Can Do

Send letters and faxes to Alicia Duran Ballen, Advisor to the President of Ecuador stating your opposition to Maxus' project. Ask her to reconsider her endorsement of Maxus' destructive Block 16 oil project. Alicia Duran Ballen, Asesoria de la Presidencia de la Republica Garcia Morena 1043, Quito, Ecuador. Fax: 593-2-580-751

For more information, contact Glen Switkes at Rain forest Action Network, 450 Sansome St., Suite 700, San Francisco CA 94111, USA Tel: (415) 398-4404 Fax: (415) 398-2732e-mail: en.rainforest or Yvonne Ramos, Accion Ecologica, Lerida 380 y Pontevedra, Quito Ecuador Tel: (593) 2-526-994 Fax: (593) 2-547-516

Petroecuador Pollutes Wildlife Reserve.

Petroecuador, the Ecuadorian state oil company, has begun oil exploration in the most sensitive part of the 1.6 million acre Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve. A recent study of the area recorded the highest species density yet recorded for any rainforest zone. In the past two years, five oil spills in the reserve have contaminated rivers and lakes and caused serious health problems for indigenous communities and damaged the animal and plant life in the region. Despite this, Petroecuador plans to construct 170 km. of roads within the reserve, opening the area to colonization, lumber companies and ranchers.

The promising ecotourism industry in the Cuyabeno will also be destroyed. Because Petroecuador will work in an area of flooded forest, they will need to cut vast amounts of wood for walkways, platforms and towers, and will have more difficulty controlling contamination from oil spills. Recently, an inter-ministerial task force visiting the Cuyabeno found Petroecuador to be contaminating rivers with drilling wastes, and permitting hunting within the reserve, activities which are prohibited in protected areas. The group recommended "the immediate suspension of these destructive activities" and asked that Petroecuador "be fined to the maximum extent legally possible." Still, the company continues its illegal oil ac-

tivities. Now a coalition has been formed uniting indigenous communities, workers, ecotourism guides, scientists, and conservation groups in the "Committee for the Defense of the Cuyabeno". The Committee demands an immediate cessation of illegal oil activities, and a ten-year moratorium on all further oil development within the Cuyabeno Reserve.

What You Can Do

Please write to the President:

President Sixto Duran Ballen, Presidente Constitucional del Ecuador, calling for Petroecuador to halt illegal oil exploration within the Cuyabeno Reserve.

Send copies to: Committee for the Defense of the Cuyabeno, P.O. Box 17-21-508, Quito, Ecuador.

NFN: Great Australian Escarpment Audio-visual Tour

The NFN, Southern Hemisphere, will shortly be touring the US, Europe and Japan with a presentation promoting Australia's eastern forests, from Cape York to Sth West Tasmania.

The Native Forest Network (NFN) is an international forest protection agency with two information and clearinghouses, one in the southern hemisphere in Tasmania and one in the northern hemisphere in Montana. It has offices in the US in Seattle and Burlington, Vermont, and member organisations in Australia, Chile, New Zealand, Sweden and the U.K.

The Show will be the international section of a tour organised by NFN Nth. Hemisphere to precede its Temperate Forest Conference. Presentations will be given to branches of the Sierra Club, and Wilderness Society and a host of local groups. Over 40 shows have been arranged, with an expected total audience of 5,000. Shows will also be given in London, Amsterdam, Berlin and Tokyo.

The Great Escarpment Audio-visual will present the case for conserving the forests of Eastern Australia, and examine the alternatives to forestry for the area. One of these alternatives is eco-tourism, which the tour will be promoting to a tailor-made audience.

Nth American Temperate Forest Conference

The First North American Temperate Forest Conference at the University of Vermont will be hosted by the NFN. It will convene on Thursday, November 11, with a presentation by keynote speaker David Suzuki, and continue until November 14. Speakers will include indigenous rights campaigner Winona La Duke, as well as presentations, bioregional reports, and discussion circles intended to define the direction for campaigns and actions for this continent.

The conference will bring indigenous people, forest dwellers, forest activists, conservation biologists and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) together for the first time in North America. The present crisis situation in our forests will be discussed and hopefully the attendees will resolve to act upon the knowledge shared at the conference. Green musicians Alice Di Miceli and Dana Lyons will provide entertainment.

Last year in Tasmania, immediately following the First Inter-

national Temperate Forest Conference, the NFN agreed to hold this continental conference in the eastern part of North America. The NFN feels strongly that there is a wide disparity between national environmental NGOs and local and regional NGOs on forest campaign positions. The NFN believes that the forest movement needs to create a unified body capable of protecting and restoring native forests while articulating actions and proposals on national and international levels. The conference in Vermont will allow the opportunity to discuss this concept of a global umbrella for the forest movement that would allow forest activists to unite while remaining autonomous. NFN organisers of this conference feel this will be the major forest conference of 1993 and prove to be more relevant than the "Forest Summit" held in April in Oregon.

For further information about the First North American Temperate Forest Conference and the NFN Cross-Continental Roadshow, please contact Eastern North American NFN, Orin Langelle, PO Box 57, Burlington, Vermont, 05402 USA. Ph: 802-658-2403 Fax: 802-863-2532, E-mail:en:peacejustice

Fishers Among Mangroves

As the prawn industry has expanded through Asia and Latin America, it has destroyed large tracts of mangrove forests, which are ideal sites for prawn farms. In the process, it undermines the way of life of those who depend on the mangroves. This article concerns the mangroves of Thailand, but the story is similar in Taiwan, Indonesia, China, India, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and elsewhere. Vietnam, Yemen, Burma, Cambodia and Iran are future targets.

by Alfredo Quarto

The inhabitants of the small villages of Thailand's mangrove swamps, who have fished for thousands of years, have recently initiated several efforts to restore their environment and safeguard their fish supply. However, since the early 1970s a seemingly innocuous creature - the black tiger prawn - has threatened their way of life.

Thailand's prawn production topped 160,000 tons in 1991, generating over 20 billion bhat (about \$800 million). Over 230,000 acres of coastal lands have been converted to prawn farms. Although nearly half of the farms are in protected forests, the government does little to dissuade violators. Wherever the prawn industry establishes itself, displacement of the local population follows. Self-sufficient peoples, rooted in traditional culture, find themselves residing in shanty towns on the fringes of cities.

The best farm sites, like many mangrove forests, are close to the sea and on level ground, making it easier to dig shallow ponds to hold the prawns. First, the land is cleared of trees and excavated for ponds. Soon astounding profits are realized, and more prawn ponds appear. Yet the dominant "intensive production" method can't sustain itself for very long. It depends on hatchery-bred larvae, manufactured feed, and chemical and medical water treatments, all maintained in controlled artificial ponds. To ensure a stable environment, the ponds are regularly refreshed with sea water, while fouled waters containing toxic prawn excrement and additives from the feed and water treatments are pumped out.

No adequate method exists for disposing of pond effluents without contaminating surrounding land and ground water. The salty sea water also poisons ground water and farm lands, while waste water kills coastal sea life and destroys fisheries. After one to three years, the ponds can no longer sustain prawn life, so indebted prawn farmers take out new loans, until finally bankruptcy corners them. Often they sell their lands and home to the wealthy investors who encouraged them to convert their lands to prawn farms in the first place. Later, the investors can sell the land as sites for industrial plants, cold-storage facilities for fisheries products, and future housing or tourist developments. Having paid off their investment, the big prawn businesses begin the process anew elsewhere.

A Few Years of Profit

"Some are beginning to see that prawn farming is not a good thing," says one prawn farmer in Songkhla Province. "One to two years of profit, after that losses. If I had to do it over again, I'd stay in mixed agriculture. But the incentives were greater than the warnings, and so people

took chances".

The Ocean's Rainforest

The coastal waters around mangrove forests sustain fish, dolphins, otter, crustaceans, sea turtles, manatees and their rare relative dugong. Mangrove swamps provide breeding grounds for much of the world's fish, shrimps, crabs and shellfish. Mangrove forest, the "ocean's rainforest", offer a habitat for crab-eating macaques, fishing cats, giant monitor lizards, a variety of shore birds and many other plant and animal species.

Worldwide, there are over 75 mangrove species found near river estuaries, sheltered shores and inland tidal zones. The trees thrive in brackish waters. Where most plants would succumb to the salinity, mangroves flourish because their unique tap roots filter out salt and provide fresh water to the rest of the plant.

"No-one in this village likes the prawn farms," asserts Ma Sanee Nunsii, wife of the assistant headman in Bahn Laemmakan village in Trang Province. As yet, no farms have come to the peninsula where she lives, but prawn farmers have illegally cleared and occupied over 200 acres of mangrove forests nearby. These enterprises openly violate the law, but, Ma explains, the owners are influential people.

The Community Forest

Over 70% of the territory of Bahn Laemmakan and its neighbouring villages of Bahn Laemsai and Bahn Toong is mangrove forest. Years earlier, the villagers had harvested mangrove for charcoal. The business was profitable when trees were full grown, but as the forests were cut without giving trees time to mature, it became less so. Eventually, people returned to fishing, although two charcoal facilities remain. Outside workers - about twenty for each factory - come in to maintain operations, and mangrove stands continue to shrink.

Thai law reserves about 80% of this mangrove forest for charcoal production, although it lies within a national forest. Moreover, even the 15% of the forest with "full protection status" is sometimes violated. Finally, about 260 acres of mangrove forest comprise "community forest" - land the provincial government presented to the three villages for community use. The community forest acts as a buffer against hard times and a way to ensure a future for a village dependent on its resources. Each village lets

Continued on page 30.

World Roundup

EUROPE: Rainforest Campaigners Demand Timber Labelling

Because of the rapid destruction of primeval forests at the hands of the international timber industry, more than 40 organisations involved in the European rainforest campaign are demanding a labelling scheme for all wood and wooden materials - not only for imports from tropical countries.

The groups believe that the minimum information available to consumers should consist of: the botanical name of the wood; the trades name of the wood; the country of origin; the climate zone; and the treatment in pesticides.

Such a scheme, the groups claim, would provide value-free information for consumers to base their choices on and would help guard against spurious environmental claims, such as those made by fanciful promotion slogans like "plantation grown wood is saving rainforests". CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, restricts or prohibits trade in many types of timber. A strong labelling system of the kind advocated here may prove helpful in the difficult task of monitoring wood traffic for CITES.

In the absence of the rainforest movement's principal call for an import moratorium in tropical wood being adopted, the labelling scheme would be a first step towards a timber trade which respects human beings and their environment. Not only organisations in Germany but in Switzerland, Austria, the Netherlands and Australia are calling for such a labelling scheme.

The proponents of the scheme are opposed to the "Initiative Tropenwald", a push by the German timber industry to obtain a "good wood label" for sustainably logged timber. Rather than save primeval forests, the rainforest groups believe such a scheme would merely promote the interests of the importers.

For more information: Heffa Schuecking ("URGEWALD") +49-2583 1031 Juergen Wolters ("ARA") +49-521 65943



CANADA: Clayoquot Sounds Off

The world's largest remaining temperate rainforest, Clayoquot Sound in British Columbia, Canada, was celebrated last weekend at an illegal open air concert by right-on Aussie rockers, 'Midnight Oil'.

Four thousand five hundred tree worshippers trespassed on land "owned" by serial tree killers, MacMillan Bloedel Co., to dance at the planet's first temperate rainforest rave. MacMillan Blunder's PR spokesman, Slash N. Burn, commented, "We ritually murdered the oldest tree in the country in 1991, but we're still not satisfied, WE WANT THEM ALL!"

55 people are up for trespassing, which is now a criminal charge in the area.

MALAYSIA: Possible Aids Cure Tree Cut Down

Starting with twigs from a Malaysian gum tree, researchers in 1991 isolated a compound that blocked the spread of the AIDS virus in human immune cells. The team sent biologists racing back to Malaysia for more samples from the tree. But when they got to the swamp, the tree was gone. And no tree found since has produced the same compound. The frustrating saga was revealed in a confidential paper made public last week by US representative Gerry Studds. Tests using human immune system cells were conducted in a laboratory. No tests were conducted on humans. "We have very good data. It's very promising," Cardellina said. "To say it's definitely going to be a cure is jumping way ahead of the game." But Cardellina said the initial testing indicated that the newly discovered compound could more than just control the disease. The tree that showed promise was a member of the *Guttiferae* family of gum producing trees. The particular type, known as *Calophyllum lanigerum*, was found in swamp in the Malaysian island province of Sarawak. Researchers collected about 1kg of twigs, bark and fruit from the tree - enough to conduct a few experiments. The scientists collected the sample as part of a broader effort to find medicinal substances in tropical trees. Back at the National Cancer Institute's research centre in Maryland, scientists reduce sap-like material found in the tree down to a new compound, calanolide A. They tested it against

the HIV-1 virus—the most common virus form in known AIDS cases. The team found the new compound was '100% effective' in blocking that process. They said it "completely inhibits the virus's pathological effects on human immune system cells, without causing damage to human cells." Results of the study were published last year after peer review by the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*. In the paper released by Studds, the authors said that when they returned to Malaysia in 1991 for more raw material, they found that the tree had been cut down soon after the first sample had been taken in 1987. No identical trees were found in the immediate area and samples from the same tree species found elsewhere did not yield the calanolide A compound. Word that the source of the compound had been cut down did not surface until last week when Studds released a copy of the tropical plant paper marked 'confidential'. Some of the lookalike trees contain materials toxic to humans, he said. Dr. Djaja Soejarto of the University of Illinois at Chicago, the team member mainly responsible for collecting test samples from the rainforest, said that even if another tree could be found, several tonnes of plant material would be needed for testing on a clinical scale. "This example vividly illustrates many of the unique problems and challenges which must be faced and solved for successful drug development following such a discovery, before the true medicinal potential of tropical rainforest plants can be realised," the team wrote.



ITTO: Consumers Promote Double Standards

GENEVA, Switzerland: Consumer countries impeded efforts to reach an equitable agreement with tropical timber-producing nations attending the UN negotiations for an International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) in late June, according to WWF-World Wide Fund For Nature.

"This is pure trade discrimination", said Wale Adeleke, Forest Officer for WWF International. "Consumer countries are promoting a double standard whereby they can regulate the commerce in tropical timber producing countries, but these tropical countries cannot have a say in the temperate timber trade."

The ITTA of 1983, which is the treaty governing the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), expires 31 March 1994. This is the second negotiating session, where consumers, such as Canada, Germany, Sweden and

the US, have continued to block the producer members' call to include all timber in the new agreement.

Just last week, the US pledged to adopt the Year 2000 target for sustainable forestry management, a goal agreed to by the producer members of the ITTO more than three years ago. While the US called on European governments to do the same, it indicated this week that it did not intend its forests to be scrutinized by the ITTO.

"Promises by some consumer countries to adopt similar targets outside the ITTO only worsen the situation," added Mr. Adeleke. "Unless the new ITTA tackles these inadequacies, the ITTO will continue to ignore the majority of the timber trade, which is in temperate woods."

In addition, governments attending this week's negotiations banned all observers from participating in the so-called contact group meetings, which are open to all government delegates. No specific reason was given for this new decision and it was strongly opposed by the observers, who have made productive contributions at the previous negotiating sessions.

Source: WWF-International

SOLOMON Is.: Strict New Logging Laws

The Solomon Islands Government has strongly warned companies and individuals involved with logging in the country to comply with the Government's new direction on sustainable logging. Natural resources minister Ezekiel Alebua warns that "companies or individuals that do not comply with government rules will be dealt with accordingly".

Mr Alebua says this may sound very harsh but Solomon Islands is a signatory to Agenda 21 of the Rio Earth Summit Accord which spells out sustainable development very clearly. He issued the warning when he launched the country's timber grading rules in Honiara.

In its new policy which comes into force in August, the government will drastically reduce large-scale logging and replace it with sustainable logging using chain saws.

While scaling down large logging operations, logging companies will be required to process their timber for local use and export.

Mr Alebua warns that the Government will take appropriate measures against companies that failed to comply with the new policy on sustainable logging.

Source: SOL STAR, 22 Jul 1993



THAILAND: Multinationals Log National Park.

Despite a general logging ban in 1988, logging continues to destroy the tropical forests of Thailand. The Don Yai Forest, a lush tropical forest close to the Cambodian border is one of the few intact forest ecosystems in Thailand. The country's forest cover, 60% in 1950, has been reduced to 10% in just thirty years. In the Don Yai forest, declared a national park in 1981, the few remaining hardwood trees, and even secondary growth are in constant danger of being logged. According to Buddhist forest monks, who live their lives in the old tradition of the wandering alms-monks in the forests of Thailand, the logging is unchecked by the law because large international companies bribe local officials, and use impoverished local farmers for cheap labour, promising them land after it is logged. However once the land is cleared, it is turned over to paper-producing companies, primarily from Japan, who replant the land with eucalyptus for pulp production. The eucalyptus wears out the fragile soil, leaving locals with infertile ground. The forest monks have been involved in the fight to save the Dong Yai forest since 1989, and many have been gaoled for their involvement with local villagers and protests. The loss of this forest not only represents the further destruction of an already dwindling resource, and the further impoverishment of a rural farming culture, but the end of a way of life for the forest monks of this region.

What You Can Do

Please write to

The Honourable Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister of Thailand, Government House, Nakhon Pathom Rd., Bangkok 100300, Thailand, Fax:(66)2280-1443

- urging him to halt logging in national forests, provide agricultural support and income alternatives for impoverished villagers, investigate the alleged bribing of officials and restrict eucalyptus plantations to already deforested areas.



WEST PAPUA: Mining and Logging Bring Pollution and Death

Massive destruction to several river systems through mining and to rainforests through timber concessions have occurred in West Papua (Irian Jaya) according to a document by John Rumbiak of the Irian Jaya Rural Community Development Foundation, *Development in Irian Jaya or Western New Guinea and its cost on the traditional rights of indigenous peoples*, claims that large-scale deforestation of the rainforests is taking place without any consultation or negotiations with the indigenous people and "is considered an insult and usually gives rise to conflict or tribal wars amongst the people." Moreover, the destruction of the rainforests is being blamed on the rotating cultivation system practised by the indigenous people. Companies have concessions to more than eight mill. hectares.

The document claims the Aikwa/Ajkawa and Otomona rivers are suffering from severe silting as a result of US mining company Freeport's operations. The huge mine sits above the tree line at 3,600 metres. and below the glacial-capped Punjak Jaya which is 5030 metres. high. The copper and gold mine was established in 1970 and is Indonesia's single biggest tax payer. In recent years it has been mining 32,000 tonnes per day, employs 6,000 people and produces concentrate containing 15,000 tonnes of copper and one tonne of gold every month. Freeport exhausted its original mine after it completely removed Ertsberg mountain in 1990 and commenced development of the larger Grasberg mountain which holds over 800 million tonnes of ore, making it the biggest proven gold deposit in the world. The company's operation has recently been increased to 57,000 tonnes per day, with production expanding to 90,000 tonnes per day, making the mine on a par with Ok Tedi. The costs are enormous. The document claims that a Freeport engineer said "The crushed and treated waste is dumped into the rivers. This means that over 33,000 tonnes of waste in the form of fine sand go into the rivers every day. There are villages along the course of these rivers. Most of the waste is washed downstream, little remains in the upper part of the rugged country. In the meandering of the enormous delta system the fine material is deposited and spread in the forest. The trees are dying out, the natives complaints are unrecorded."

"Before Freeport came in", said a tribal person, "the rivers and streams were very clear. Now all the forest is dying. No more green sago trees to pound, all wild animals that used to be hunted disappearing. We can't even see the fish in the water." Of the 1.6 million people in the region, about 800,000 are there through the *transmigrasi* from Java, Bali, Nusa Tenggara and Sumatra. The population growth of indigenous people is estimated to be less than 0.5% or static, while the overall population growth is about 3.5% p.a., caused principally by the influx of 50,000 immigrants per year through the *Transmigrasi* scheme. This has had a huge effect on the people of West Irian, such as the Arfak and Lani who plant in the highlands. The Asmat, Mimika, Inanwatan, Teminabuan rely on sago starch collecting, fishing and hunting in the swamplands while the Biakes, Yapanese, Raja Ampats and Misool fish and cultivate on the is lands.

Source: Landrights News, May 1993

TRANSPORT INDUSTRY'S ROLE IN DEFORESTATION

Over 95% of all intermodal containers have floors made of tropical timber which is harvested primarily from the forests of Southeast Asia. Intermodal containers, used for the transport of consumer goods, are large, metal-sided containers manufactured by companies like Hyundai and leased by companies like General Electric's Genstar division. They are seen towed by Mack trucks, loaded onto trains, stacked on decks of huge ocean liners and scattered about every port in the world. Although there are millions of them, few people are aware of their devastating effect on the rainforest.

Why use a wood floor in a metal container? Tropical hardwood floors are stronger than steel but lighter, cheaper and easier to repair. But what does this industry cost rainforests?

Over 70% of container manufacturers are in Pacific Rim nations. South Korea is the home of the two largest manufacturers. Wood is supplied from nearby Malaysian and Indonesian rainforests to make container floor plywood. In the past century, Southeast Asian rainforests have been reduced by 75%, making them some of the most devastated forests on the planet. Because of extensive logging in Peninsular Malaysia and around-the-clock logging operations in Sarawak, hundreds of plant and animal species unique to Sarawak have become extinct and many forest dwelling cultures are being robbed of their way of life.

While other industries are often monitored by independent agencies, the inter-modal container industry has been left to monitor itself. The Institute of International Container Lessors (IICL) is an industry coalition formed to share technology and business information and represents the only significant authoritative body in this industry. Although it is the manufacturers who make the containers, it is the container lessors who buy, rent and control them. Therefore the container lessors are in a position to apply pressure on manufacturers to change patterns of wood consumption.

IICL member, Dieter Heckler, the Vice President of Operations at General Electric's Genstar Corp., claims he has requested his manufacturers to begin using rubber wood. Genstar's chief manufacturer is Hyundai Precision, the largest manufacturer of containers in the world. Hyundai, facing severe criticism for their intended logging operations in Siberia, has stated they are in the "final stage" of adopting rubber wood in their floors and are "well aware of...the importance of this environmental matter."

While lip service is being paid to this issue, and some progress has been reported, Edward Wooley, the head of the IICL admitted that they "may not move as fast as some would like us to... and there are no deadlines." Indeed, little is happening from the environmental standpoint.

Members of the IICL have shown little interest in alternatives. Those being tested range from recycled plastic/synthetic materials to U.S. alternative woods such as Sweet Gum. However, this industry continues to support the incalculable environmental cost of clear-cutting tropical hard-wood over the higher monetary costs of domestic



or recycled alternatives. The industry defends their position by claiming that if an alternative wood (Sweet Gum) floor is used and proves to have a shorter life span, this would demand more repairs resulting in higher wood consumption and money spent in the long run. But with the use of any alternative, consumption of tropical hardwood would be minimized, thus reducing the costs to the rainforest where half of the planet's species exist, and raising hopes for survival of indigenous cultures like the Penan.

Source: Brian Bishop in Rainforest Action Network's World Rainforest Report, April/June 1993

MITSUBISHI MINES CALIFORNIA

Mitsubishi, whose environmentally destructive operations span the globe, has turned up in Southern California. Rainforest Action Network recently extended its Mitsubishi campaign by supporting local organizers who are attempting to stop a strip mining operation owned by Mitsubishi. We want to let Mitsubishi know that their environmentally devastating practices will not be tolerated anywhere.

In 1989, Mitsubishi Cement bought 25% of Azusa Rock, a southern California mine site, and 50% of Owl Rock, a nearby processing plant. Despite numerous violations of their permit and citizen opposition, the mine has been allowed to continue.

The once beautiful alluvial sage fan of Fish Creek Canyon, a rare and unique ecosystem that supported several endangered species, has been transformed into an 800-foot scar that reaches skyward on two slopes of the San Gabriel mountains.

The strip mining operation is causing serious environmental and health problems. The mining activities are responsible for generating massive dust clouds which contribute significantly to air quality problems. Several researchers and physicians are concerned that dust particles stirred up by the mining are linked to a respiratory illness called "Desert Valley Fever" which is currently reaching epidemic levels in Bakersfield and Los Angeles.

In addition to these problems, the Mitsubishi mine has closed off the only public access to Fish Creek Canyon. Guaranteed access to this trail is one of the conditions of Mitsubishi's permit. The Coalition which emerged from last October's port action, where activists from RAN, Greenpeace and Earth First! held up a shipment of tropi-

cal timber in Long Beach, has come together to support this issue. With the assistance of the L.A. Greenpeace office and area Rainforest Action Groups, the coalition mobilized public support for the closure of the mine.

On February 27th, the coalition held a rally demanding that Azusa Rock be shut down. Over 100 people attended the rally which was covered by local media. Two activists locked down to a truck blocking the entrance of the mine, and signs reading "Mitsubishi, Mine Your own Business" decorated the site.

The Azusa city council is scheduled to review Azusa Rock's permit this month. Owners of the mine have put up a big fight and have threatened to sue the city if the council votes to close the mine.

Source: Rainforest Action Network's World Rainforest Report, April/June 1993. For more information, please contact: Leona Klipstein, Friends of the Foothills, PO Box 0005 Altadena, CA 91003, USA.

VANUATU: Govt. Cautious on Logging

Vanuatu Natural Resources Minister Paul Telukluk has decided to delay logging operations on Malekula and Santo islands until further environment impact assessment is done. Vanuatu's forests face increased pressure from logging companies in the immediate future.

A Malaysian logging company, Premier Corporation, was granted a licence to log 70,000 cubic meters of forest on the islands of Erromango, Malekula and Santo. In a statement, Mr Telukluk said he supports sustainable logging developments on Erromango but no further logging operations would be undertaken on Malekula and Santo, until proper assessments are made.

He said development with careful consideration to the recently-established principles of sustainable development. To ignore sustainable development of Vanuatu's natural resource, he said, would make a mockery of Vanuatu's membership of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and the South Pacific Regional Environment Program SPREP.

According to a report on the Australian Broadcasting Commission's Radio Australia Network, Vanuatu is the next island nation to face the depredations of the big Malaysian logging companies.

In Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, the report said, Malaysian logging companies have been responsible for corrupting politicians and officials, circumventing tax laws, undervaluing and misdeclaring log species and failing to live up to their commitments to landowners. The report claimed that the export of tropical logs from Malaysia is now severely restricted by Government regulation, and so the Malaysian timber companies are expanding into the South Pacific.

A Malaysian ship carrying logging equipment was made to leave Vanuatu in early August. The ship, *Access Blue*, carried 38 trucks and bulldozers to be used by the Malaysian logging company, Delta Enterprise Premier Corporation, on Malekula island. Customs officers found that the ship contained large amounts of earth and wood debris and did not comply with quarantine regulations.

A recent survey carried out by the Vanuatu government recommended limits on logging operations to ensure sustainable exploitation of forests.

Source: Radio Vanuatu, Radio Australia, August 1993.

FISHERS AMONG MANGROVES. *Continued from page 25.*

its members in need of extra earnings use some of the community forest, with certain restrictions.

For the past three years, the villages have begun a program to manage their community forest, establishing strict rules for sustainable forest management. Recently, they planted 23 acres of degraded forest, starting young mangroves from hanging shoots and pods harvested from mature trees.

The Roots of the Sea

In Bahn Laemsai, village headman Mad-Ha Ranwasii is against prawn farms too, saying that only a few people benefit, while most lose everything when the fish are gone. His village lies within the national forest and so is ostensibly protected, but provincial government plans to construct a road make him wonder if prawn farms will follow.

Mad-Ha is committed to resisting the prawn industry. "If there are no mangrove forests, then the sea will have no meaning," he says. "It is like having a tree with no roots, for the mangroves are the roots of the sea."

A fisherman standing nearby adds that the villagers are concerned over the encroaching prawn industry. "We only know how to catch fish," he says. "If we couldn't catch fish, we wouldn't know what else to do."

What You Can Do

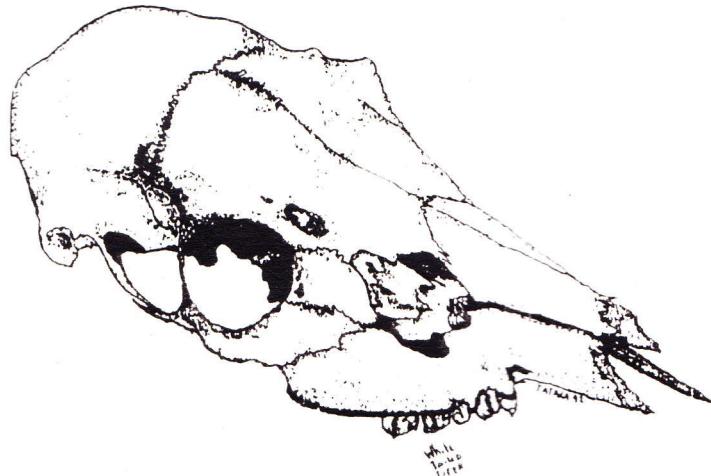
* **Don't buy Tiger Prawns:** Since the industry relies on demand, the Mangrove Action Project, an international coalition of environmental and human-rights groups, was formed to raise awareness of the threats to mangrove forests. One target of a market slowdown is Seattle-based **Aquastar**, which has extensive prawning facilities on Thailand's east coast.

MAP wants people to limit buying black tiger (jumbo) prawns and to ask restaurants, fish markets, and grocery stores to reduce selling them.

* **Write a letter:** to the Royal Thailand Embassy in your country. Ask that Thailand protect the remaining mangrove forests and the people that live there.

For further information, or to send donations, contact Mangrove Action Project, P.O. Box 1854 Port Angeles, WA 98362-0279, USA.

* Alfredo Quarto is director of the Mangrove Action Project. This article is an edited version of a story which appeared in Cultural Survival Quarterly, Winter 1992.



Logging to Start Again in Indigenous Reserves

The decision of Brazilian Judge Selene Maria de Almeida to halt illegal logging on indigenous territories in the Brazilian Amazon (see WRR25 p15) was suspended in May by a pro-business, conservative judge.

Considering an appeal from the logging companies and gold miners, Judge Eustaquio Silveira suspended the injunction which stopped the logging companies Perachi, Maginco, and Impar from operating within indigenous reserves in southern Para. These companies reportedly sell to US companies such as Robinson Lumber, Dan KMoore, Caribbean Lumber, Capicentro and Thompson- Mahogany among others. In 1992 alone 45,000 cubic meters of mahogany were exported to the United States, of which almost half was extracted illegally from the Arawete, Parakana and Xicrin indigenous reserves.

What You Can Do

This logging is devastating both for the ecology of these reserves, and for the indigenous people who inhabit them in concert with the request of the Brazilian Nucleus of Indigenous Rights we urge to write to Judge Eustaquio Silveira asking to reconsider his decision.

Dear Mr. Eustaquio Silveira,

I am extremely concerned with your new decision to suspend the injunction issued by the Fourth Federal Court against the Perachi, Maginco and Impar logging companies which have been illegally operating within the Arawete, Parakana and Xicrin indigenous areas in the state of Para. I was delighted with Judge Selene Maria de Almeida's decision to oust these logging companies stopping them from destroying indigenous cultures and devastating pristine rainforest ecosystems.



Thus, I respectfully urge you to consider your decisions in the light of survival of these imperiled indigenous people and the protection of their homelands, the Amazon rainforest.

Exmo. Sr. Eustaquio Silveira Tribunal Regional Federal da 1a. Regiao SBS, Q.2, Ed. Aurea, 4 andar Brasilia, DF, cep 70070-100- Brazil International Postage 50 c Fax (5561 - 322-1022)

Please send copies to:

The Nucleus of Indigenous Rights: Nucleo de Direitos Indigenas, SHIS QI 11, Bloco K, s/loja 65, 71625-500, Brasilia - Brazil. Fax: (5561) 248-6420

Source: World Rainforest Report, (Rainforest Action Network version) July - Sept 1993

Deputy Opposes Demarcation of Indian Lands

In the run up to October's constitutional review, pressures are growing against the demarcation of Indian lands. A constitutional amendment has been proposed prohibiting demarcation of Indian lands located on the border. The bill, proposed by deputy Nicias Ribeiro, from the State of Para, also suggests demarcations outside that strip should be subject to prior approval by the National Congress.

According to the deputy, the Executive Branch has been demarcating "excessively" large Indian areas and so Congress should take part in all such decisions. Ribeiro's opposition to demarcation of Indian lands on the border, is in tune with certain military who regard it as a threat against the national sovereignty.

Subjecting decisions of this kind to the approval of National Congress will make the demarcation of Indian lands even more difficult. National Congress is a political institution where demarcation decisions would be negotiated. If politics prevails over technical considerations, the rights of Indian peoples will be harmed in the process.

When he mentions "large" areas, the deputy is referring to the lands of the Yanomami. "Why should we give so much land to a handful of Indians when there are so many landless non-Indian Brazilians?", he asks. If he were really

concerned with the landless, he would have remembered the need for land reform in Brazil. He would have recalled that 0.8% of the population controls 48% of the land area. But he did not forget to mention the mineral riches of Yanomami lands, which mining companies covet. They would surely benefit from the approval of the bill.

The bill is one of a series of actions aimed at paving the way for reducing the rights of Indian peoples, particularly their land rights, in the constitutional review.

The amendment bill states: "Demarcation of lands traditionally occupied by Indians, other than those located on the border strip, whose demarcation shall be prohibited, shall be subject to the prior approval of the National Congress, after the size and territorial bounds of the area comprised by the Indian reservation are duly approved."

Source: CIMI - Indianist Missionary Council, Brasilia, August 12, 1993

YANOMAMI MASSACRED

Between fourteen and nineteen Yanomami Indians were massacred by goldminers between the Hemosh and Xidea villages in the Yanomami territory in Roraima state in the northern Brazilian Amazon. The dead include men, women and children who were decapitated with machetes, according to the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI). The immediate motive is unknown but the killings are clearly a consequence of the impunity guaranteed the gold mine operators by local politicians and the omission of the federal government.

The legal recognition, or demarcation, of the Yanomami territory in November 1991, brought Brazil's Collor de Mello government international credibility on human rights and the environment. Some 20,000 Yanomami, many still highly isolated from the outside world, inhabit forests of the Brazil-Venezuela border, with about 10,000 in Brazil. A gold rush began in the mid-eighties, and by 1987 some 80,000 goldminers had invaded the Yanomami land, bringing virulent malaria and epidemic diseases. Indigenous, human rights and environmental organizations in Brazil and internationally called insistently for the legal and physical demarcation of the Yanomami territory, and removal of the miners. Many of the miners were removed at the end of 1990, under federal court order, but military ministers, mining interests and the local political elite blocked the demarcation, arguing that recognizing the entire 9.6 million hectare area inhabited by the Yanomami in the border region represented a threat to Brazil's national security. In 1991 Minister of Justice Jarbas Passarinho, finding the national security arguments baseless, demarcated the area. The military nonetheless recently raised the spectre of "internationalization of the Amazon" through foreign interference in Indian areas in the region, convening an extraordinary meeting of the Committee for National Defense to discuss the issue.

Indigenous and indigenous rights organizations had for the last year warned that reinvasions of the area, cleared of miners after the demarcation, would spread fatal illnesses and lead to violent conflict between the Indians and goldminers. In May, Yanomami leader Davi Kopenawa Yanomami, on a visit to the United States, asked members of the US Congress and US Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt to pressure the Brazilian government to prevent further reinvasions. He made the same point in discussions in the United Nations working group on indigenous rights in Geneva in July. There are at present some 600 goldminers working in the area.

What You Can Do

Please fax or write a letter calling for a complete investigation and punishment for the guilty parties to:
Ilmo. Sr. Ministro da Justica Mauricio Correa Ministerio da Justica
Esplanada dos Ministerios Bl. T 70.064 Brasilia DF Brazil Fax: 011 55 11
321 5145 or 011 55 11 224 1936 or 011 55 11 225 6288. Send a copy to your
nearest Brazilian Ambassador.

Source: Environmental Defence Fund, Washington.

CHRONOLOGY of the YANOMAMI GENOCIDE

The genocide of the Yanomami began in the early 70's, with the first invasions of the Indian territory by miners. Since then, about 2,000 Indians have been killed. The Brazilian govt. allowed this genocide to happen, as shown below:

happen, as shown below.

1974: Construction of the Perimetral Norte highway through Yanomami territory begins. In the next 3 years 80 Indians die. Uranium, gold, diamonds, and tin ore discovered in the Yanomami area.

1975: 500 miners invade Indian land looking for tin. Governor of Roraima, Ramos Pereira, supports the invasion.

1978: FUNAI signs a covenant with mining company Vale do Rio Doce for the exploitation of tin ore in Yanomami lands. The covenant is suspended.

1979: New Governor of Roraima announces that his top priority is to resume the mining for tin ore.

1981: 2,000 miners invade the area looking for gold. Gov. Pinto insists that the prohibition against mining activities in these lands should be lifted.

1982: 5 Yanomami are murdered by miners. More outbreaks of disease.

1983: FUNAI signs a covenant for carrying out research and mining for ores in the Indian area.

1985: 44 miners headed by Jose' Altino Machado invade Surucucus. They are expelled by Army and Police. Miners invade the northeast region of the territory. Deputy Mozarildo Cavalcanti presents a bill to the Chamber of Deputies providing for the exploitation of tin ore in Yanomami lands by authorization of the Executive Branch.

1987: Brazilian govt. attempts to justify the *Calha Norte* Project by claiming demarcation is a Yanomami pretext to establish an independent state. Military commander of the Amazonian Region, says that the presence of miners in the Indian area "plays a strategic role". Four Yanomami area are murdered by miners.

1988: Miners kill 9 Yanomami. New Governor of Roraima, Romero Juca (Ex-president of FUNAI) says he will ensure the security of the 20,000 miners in Indian area. Govt. cuts Yanomami territory into 19 discontinuous areas, one national park and two national forests, leaving 76% of their traditional territory out of the demarcation. Four Indians are murdered by the invaders the following year.

1990: Miners kill two Indians. President Sarney creates the Araricoera and Catrimani-Couto Magalhaes mining reservations inside Indian lands. The extermination of 15% of the Yanomami about 2,000 Indians, in the two previous years by diseases brought by the miners is denounced.

1991: The reinvasion grows. FUNAI mentions 1,000 miners. New Governor of Roraima Ottomar de Souza Pinto continues to support the invasion.

1992: 2 thousand miners invade the area again. 150 Yanomami die of diseases.

1993: Worldwide outcry at massacre of Yanomami. Estimates of the number murdered were as high as 79 but the final figure is now believed to be 14.

"Who Will Save the Forests? Knowledge, Power & Environmental Destruction"

Edited by Banuri & Marglin, Zed Books, London & New Jersey, 1993. ISBN: 185649 160 9 Pb

Convincing arguments that 'the modern system of knowledge is harmful in the long run'.

This is an important book. It looks at the way modern values are instrumental in destroying forests. It makes a strong case for the empowerment of the local communities, with their differing knowledge systems, as an essential step in preserving forests.

Another book reviewed here, *Privatisation as a Conservation Strategy*, accepts the dominant development-orientated world-view. It advocates modifications, rather than major changes in values. *Who Will Save The Forests?*, on the other hand, asserts that "the source of the emerging crisis [is] the dominance of the modern system of knowledge".

Whereas *Privatisation* attempts to debunk the idea that indigenous cultures are the best protectors of the forests, *Who Will Save the Forests?* sees the salvation of the forests as dependent on the acceptance of alternative systems of knowledge. It deals with what happens to local communities and their forests when modern society intrudes.

It uses four case studies: a tribal society and the Chipko Movement, both in northern India, the forests of Finland, and lastly, the forests of Maine in the USA.

In the Bastar region of northern India, the first government official or *koska* came with a rupee to buy grain from the tribals. Because the tribals did not understand the value of a rupee, the *koska* was able to depart with a large quantity of grain - and his rupee as well. Today, however, the *koska* pay 8.50 rupees per day in wages and take "everything - ie., forests, grain, women, men, children". In the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, the *koska* and the system they represent see the tribals as the main agents of deforestation. The solution, they believe, lies in greater government control of the forests - strengthening the very agents of destruction.

The Chipko ("Hug the Tree") Movement of Uttarakhand in the Himalayan foothills is a grass-roots response to "the demand for peasant access to forests; the limits of scientific forestry and the nature of the state-peasant relationship; and the fragmentation of the village community as a result of commercial penetration." Sunderlal Bahaguna, the Movement's best-known figure, says roots of the Himalayan environmental crisis "are in the modern materialistic civilisation which makes man the butcher of Earth".

The "embeddedness" of traditional knowledge-systems, the authors believe, works to preserve the forests. "In other words", they say, "actions or thoughts are perceived to have social, political, moral and cosmological implications". The modern reductionist world-view, on the other

hand, behaves as if an action or thought can exist in isolation.

In Maine's forests, there is no traditional system of knowledge to provide such a context, and that is why Maine is the only case study where local opposition to deforestation is virtually non-existent.

Other aspects of the dominant knowledge-system which promote environmental destruction include the emphasis on individualism that results from a lack of embeddedness; the separation of nature from culture; and increased mobility which "erodes the commitment to the environment as a unique and irreplaceable place".

The authors reach three main conclusions: Power must be returned to local communities; the imperatives of modern technology must be questioned; and most importantly, that "the modern system of knowledge is harmful to human society in the long run".

The authors' answer to the question posed by the title is obvious. The problem which remains is how to empower the saviours.

- John Revington

"Privatisation as a Conservation Policy: A Market Solution to the Mass Extinction Crisis"

by Joseph Henry Vogel, Circit, Melbourne, 1992 ISBN: 0-646-12315-7

This is a book to annoy the hell out of a lot of people, me included.

It has the bad manners to use "man" to refer to the whole human race. It assumes that "man" acts primarily out of selfishness. It sees "man" as the measure of all things and proposes to reduce species diversity to genetically coded information whose value is determined by its usefulness to humans.

It asserts, on the basis of very little evidence, and an overwhelming amount of evidence which points to the opposite conclusion, that indigenous peoples are as exploitative towards their environment as the most predatory capitalist.

It dismisses land ownership as an issue beyond its scope, though it is an issue on which the success of the strategy it advocates depends. In doing so it sidesteps the question of whether that strategy is worthy of being implemented.

And perhaps most importantly, it shows little understanding of why species are being destroyed in the tropics.

Deforestation, the major agent of species destruction, often occurs against the wishes of those who rightfully own the land. The land is taken out of their control by more powerful groups in society because it offers those groups an opportunity for short-term profit.

Perhaps privatisation, as defined by Vogel, would deal with this problem in some way, but it is by no means clear how it would do so.

In other cases, oppressed groups are forced off their land and have little option but to clear forest in order to survive. It is hard to see how ownership of genetic information is going to help their cause, or stop them clearing the forest.

Vogel describes himself as an "unorthodox economist". Economists have a habit of developing theories without an understanding of, or even reference to, the societies upon which they want to impose their ideas. In this respect, Vogel is disappointingly orthodox.

Yet, despite its inadequacies, *Privatisation* is proposing a strategy which may well be useful in some situations. Vogel claims that "the creation of property rights over genetic information can make habitat preservation compete with alternative land uses. Conservation will be chosen whenever the royalties paid are greater than the benefits those other land uses". Maybe, in some circumstances.

A more realistic analysis, based on an understanding of the social and political forces at work in tropical forest destruction, is necessary before a realistic appraisal of this strategy can be made.

- John Revington

"The Emperor Wears No Clothes"

Jack Herer, Last Gasp, ISBN: 1878125001



= Major Hemp growing areas in the US
before prohibition.

Power, Prejudice and Privilege in the campaign against one of the most versatile and useful plants known to humankind

There are books that have the ability to fundamentally change the way we perceive issues and Jack Herer's *The Emperor Wears No Clothes* is one such book.

It deals with the prohibition of Cannabis, or Hemp as it is otherwise known, and the implications and ramifications that this ban has had in rendering one of the most potentially versatile and useful plants to humankind off-limits. According to Herer, what we have here is a plant that has the capability to save the world but the problem that prevents its use in this regard is that it's illegal.

For those of us who have ever wondered why this is so, this book spells out a convincing scenario of self-interest, power, prejudice and privilege acting in combination to serve the desires of the few at the expense of the many.

The information relates primarily to the American experience but considering the U.S.A.'s predominant role in initiating and enforcing the international covenant prohibiting hemp use (ostensibly as a "drug"), it makes for revealing reading into the processes employed by power elites within the military (read: state) industrial complex to dictate a justice agenda and secure financial advantage.

Despite hemp's historical role as the provider of quality paper, cloth fibre, food, medicine, canvas and cordage, oils, paints and varnishes, its use was limited by the high labour intensive production requirements. The development of machinery to offset this disadvantage during the 1930's met with the concerted opposition of the petrochemical giant du Pont which was developing the synthetic fibre nylon at the same time, publishing magnate William Randolph Hearst who had acquired logging rights to vast tracts of Mexican forests and who was promoting improved techniques for converting wood to paper pulp, and the offices of US State Security eager for political weaponry to maintain control over the Mexican, black and white bohemian sectors of the population. The resultant Hemp Prohibition legislation was, and remains today, a crime against environmental sustainability and the civil rights of the underprivileged and the dispossessed.

Hemp as an annual crop is capable of producing 4 times the amount of paper as the same acreage of timber. The paper is stronger and more tear-resistant, having more than twice the recycling capacity of wood pulp-derived paper, requiring substantially less toxic chemicals in the manufacturing process and producing a product capable of long outlasting its timber-derived equivalent: it produces a stronger, softer and higher yielding cloth fibre than cotton, yet because of the combination of oils in the plant is less vulnerable to insect predation and thus free from the high use of pesticides: it is the source of a wide range of medicinal products including those used in the treatment of asthma, glaucoma, nausea induced by cancer and AIDS therapies, epilepsy and arthritis: up until 1937 produced over 70% of the world's rope and twine, and pre-steam era provided 90% of all sail material (canvas derives from the Greek word for cannabis): has the highest biomass of all plants suitable for biomass fuel conversion including cane, corn and kenaf: is the second-most complete protein food after soya beans from the plant realm . . . the list of uses and benefits continues.

Together with the massive cash and resource costs involved in the enforcement, administration and judicial systems employed in the largely counterproductive drug war strategies in place throughout the world it is easy to see where Herer derives the title for his book from. This is an immensely informative, well researched and readable book, a valuable tool in any liberation library and definitely worth the time and trouble involved in obtaining it and absorbing its contents. Highly recommended.

- Bob Hopkins, Convenor of HEMP (Help End Marijuana Prohibition) on the North Coast of NSW Australia.

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World Rainforest Movement Contacts

The Rainforest Information Centre is part of the World Rainforest Movement an international network of rainforest groups.

WRM Coordinator: Martin Khor, Third World Network, 87 Cantonment Rd., Penang 10250, Malaysia.

Africa: Simon Muchiru, African NGO Environmental Network, P.O. 53844, Nairobi, Kenya

Europe: Marcus Colchester, Cob Cottage, Chadlington OX73NA, United Kingdom. Ph: 60 876691 Fax: 60 876743 Email: GEO2:WRM

North America: Randall Hayes, Rainforest Action Network, Suite A, 301 Broadway, San Francisco CA, United States of America. Ph: 415 3984404 Fax: 415 3982732 Econet: RAINFOREST

India: Vandana Shiva, Research Foundation for Science Technology and Natural Resource Policy, 105 Rajpur Rd., Dehra Dunn, Uttar Pradesh 248001, India.

Japan: JATAN, 7-1-801 Uguisudani-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150, Japan. Fax: + 81 770 0727

Rainforest Information Centres

RIC Australia
P.O. Box 368
Lismore
NSW 2480
Australia

RIC Santa Fe
De Vargas Centre
Santa Fe
NM 87501
USA

RIC
Box 111, 400 Shattuck Ave
Berkeley
CA 94709
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